Immigration, Diversity and Political Change

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Immigration and political change: mechanisms

1. Naturalization

2. Attitude polarization

3. Geographic polarization
Immigration and political change: naturalization

- Immigrants vote overwhelmingly Democrat & reside in urban areas.

Growing urban—rural political divide.

Many more Latinos voted for Democrats than Republicans in 2018 U.S. congressional races

% who say they voted for the ___ candidate in the election for House of Representatives

- Hispanic: 69 Democratic, 29 Republican
- White: 44 Democratic, 54 Republican
- Black: 90 Democratic, 9 Republican
- Asian: 77 Democratic, 23 Republican

Source: Based on exit polls conducted by Edison Research for the National Election Pool, as reported by CNN, accessed Nov. 9, 2018.
Immigration and political change: attitude polarization

- Contact w/ immigrants, leads to polarizing political views among natives. (Enos 2014)

Causal effect of intergroup contact on exclusionary attitudes

Table 1. Experiment results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>All respondents</th>
<th>Waits on platform</th>
<th>All respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>$\Delta T E (P)^*$</td>
<td>$\Delta C A T E (P)$</td>
<td>$T_1$ levels (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of immigrants increased?</td>
<td>0.09 (0.008)</td>
<td>0.083 (0.012)</td>
<td>0.489 (0.272)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children of undocumented are allowed to stay?</td>
<td>0.073 (0.016)</td>
<td>0.098 (0.016)</td>
<td>0.441 (0.362)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English as official language?</td>
<td>0.03 (0.27)</td>
<td>0.043 (0.152)</td>
<td>0.619 (0.364)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$n$ = 109
Immigration and political change: geographic polarization and conservative flight

- Immigration leads to geographic polarization via “conservative flight” mechanism.

(Anastasopoulos 2017)
Conservatives more likely to relocate & feel discomfort when neighborhood % minority increases
Evidence of conservative flight and geographic polarization from Hurricane Katrina migration

- Steep declines in post-Katrina white enrollment in Houston schools in "conservative" Census tracts as a function of evacuee presence.
Evidence of conservative flight and geographic polarization from Hurricane Katrina migration

- Sharp declines in Republican vote share post-Katrina migration.
Evidence of conservative flight and geographic polarization from Hurricane Katrina migration

• Increase in measures of political polarization in the Houston area.

Figure 10 – Absolute Gap in Republican Vote Share For Texas Governor, Harris vs. Surrounding Counties
What does this imply for the future of politics in 2050?

- Economic Growth/Prosperity
- Diversity
- Political/Social Stability
- Political Polarization
What does this imply for the future of politics in 2050?

• As immigration continues to increase, diversity and economic growth while likely increase in American cities.

• Political divides along geographic and ideological lines will likely increase, posing policymaking challenges and challenges to American political institutions.

• These issues may be offset/avoided by increases in immigrant ideological diversity.