The Role of Institutions in Shaping America’s Future Demographics

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Jennifer D. Sciubba, Rhodes College
Summary

Question: Will past immigration patterns continue to 2050?
   • Will immigration from Asia increase?
   • Will immigration from Mexico continue?

Argument: US immigration policies are as important as economic demand or immigrant networks.

Institutions matter 2 ways:

1. as policy that regulates flow
2. as rules of the game that determine how preferences translate into policy
4 SCENARIOS FOR 2050

#1: SUPPLY-DRIVEN
#2: DEMAND-DRIVEN
#3: IDEOLOGICALLY-DRIVEN
#4: EXTERNALLY-DRIVEN
#1 – SUPPLY-DRIVEN

DECISION POINTS:

1. Foreign students in US universities
2. Diversity visa lottery
#2 — DEMAND-DRIVEN

DECISION POINTS:

1. H-1B visas
2. Legalization pathways
3. Wages for/value of DDD jobs
#3 – IDEOLOGICALLY-DRIVEN DECISION POINTS:

1. Maintenance of birthright citizenship
2. Electoral college, districts?
#4 – EXTERNALLY-DRIVEN

DECISION POINTS:

1. Family reunification policies
2. Speed of permanent resident application processing
BACKUP SLIDES
Case: Indian Software Engineers

H-1B visa applications have exceeded supply for the past five years

Number of capped H-1B applications, by fiscal year, in thousands

Notes: Due to rollover from previous fiscal years, some application totals may exceed the cap. Beginning in fiscal 2005, an additional 20,000 H-1B visas were added to the cap for foreign advanced degree graduates of U.S. universities. For fiscal years 2004, 2006-07 and 2010-13, the cap was reached but total applications were not published. Data not available for fiscal years 1990 to 1999. Source: Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services data.

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Case: Mexican Agricultural and Domestic Workers

**Mexican-origin share among U.S. Hispanics declining**

% among Hispanics


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