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List of Abstracts

Is Information Important for Immigrant Integration? A Randomized Evaluation of Pre-departure Training for Migrants from the Philippines to the US

Toman Barsbai, Vivtoria Licuanan, Andreas Steinmayr, Erwin Tiongson and Dean Yang

By providing migrants with the right information to succeed abroad, pre-departure orientation seminars (PDOS) for migrants have the potential to become a key policy tool for increasing the benefits of migration for migrants, their families as well as their destination and origin countries at large. There is currently no evidence on the effectiveness of PDOS and on what kind of training contents matter. We evaluate the effectiveness of PDOS by randomly assigning migrants departing from the Philippines to the US to new and different types of PDOS and tracking the impact on 1,273 migrants and their remaining family members over time. This paper summarizes the short-term effects of the new PDOS. We find that the new information provided in the PDOS (i) reduces travel-related problems, (ii) tends to speed up initial important steps for settlement, (iii) makes migrants less likely to have their Philippine qualification recognized and more likely to plan to study in the US, (iv) reduces the size of migrants' social network in the US, and (v) has no effect on subjective wellbeing.

Milking Migrants? A Population-based Experimental Survey of Diaspora Bonds

Clarisa Pérez-Armendáriz

In the past decade, various international development agencies have proposed that poor countries of significant outmigration leverage family remittances for development by issuing diaspora bonds—retail debt instruments issued by a sovereign entity to raise capital from its overseas émigrés. The expectation is that émigrés will loan money to their origin states because of their desire to help their origin countries' citizens;

commitments to strengthening their origin states; guilt about having left their country; and/or a desire to enhance their social status. As a growing number of national governments prepare to issue diaspora bonds, however, the conditions under which émigrés will buy them remain underexplored.

My paper begins to fill this gap by using a population-based experimental survey to explore the conditions under which émigrés from the Dominican Republic to the United States would buy diaspora bonds issued by the Dominican government. Participants who self-identify as Dominican are randomly assigned to either a treatment or control group. All participants view a prospectus for a highly credible, yet fictitious Dominican Development Bond that is tied to the construction of an electric power plant in Peravia province (they do not know that the bond is fictitious). Control group members are then asked how likely they would be to purchase the bond and how many shares they would buy. Individuals assigned to the treatment group also learn of the availability, in the US, of a similar bond with a slightly higher interest rate, and receive clarification that the funds raised by the US bond would not contribute to a development project in the Dominican Republic.

I find that émigrés are not necessarily motivated by traditional risk return calculations. On balance, Dominican emigrés are more likely than not to invest in a Dominican diaspora bond tied to a major public infrastructure project in the Dominican Republic. Additionally, knowledge of opportunities to invest in US government bonds does not reduce Dominican émigrés' willingness to invest in diaspora bonds. To the contrary, participants in the treatment group were more likely to invest in the bond. The findings suggest that diaspora bonds may, in fact be viable fundraising instruments for developing states. At the same time, the research design raises important questions regarding how governments should reach out to their émigrés, and whether émigrés perceive this contribution as a one-time donation or as an investment.

Perceptions of Intergroup Dependency Can Promote More Favorable Attitudes toward Immigrants

Jaime Napier and Lauren K. Ruth

People's attitudes toward immigrants are seemingly ambivalent. On the one hand, immigrants are viewed as culturally, economically, and even physically threatening. On the other hand, immigrants represent hope, and can inspire the promise of cultural diversity, inclusion, and progress. In this line of research, we propose that people's perceptions of intergroup dependency—i.e., the notion that immigrants are a vital and important social group that helps the country run as it does—might lead to more benevolent attitudes toward immigrants, which in turn, could promote more inclusive policies. We tested this across four studies, using samples of White Americans recruited from online participant pools. In Study 1, we measured White Americans' hostile and benevolent attitudes toward various immigrant groups, and found that (1) benevolent and hostile attitudes fell onto two distinct factors, and that (2) perceived dependency

was positively correlated with benevolent attitudes and negatively correlated with hostile attitudes. In Study 2, we found that White Americans who were told that America was highly dependent (vs. independent vs. a control condition) on immigrants reported higher levels of benevolent (but not lower levels of hostile) attitudes toward immigrants, in general, and in turn, were less likely to endorse hostile immigrant policy laws and were more likely to endorse “helpful” laws. In Study 3, in addition to manipulating people’s perception of America’s dependence on (vs. independence from) immigrant groups, we also manipulated perceived threat from immigrants by telling participants that America would soon be a nation where Whites are a minority (system threat) or that despite increased immigration, Whites will continue to remain a majority (system affirmation). When the system was affirmed, and people were presumably less motivated by threat concerns, attitudes toward immigrants were relatively high in benevolence and low in hostility, regardless of dependency condition. Under system threat, participants reported less benevolence and more hostility toward immigrants in the independence condition, but this effect was buffered when people were reminded of dependency. Study 4 replicated the effect from Study 3, showing that when people were threatened (vs. affirmed), they reported lower benevolent attitudes when told America was independent from its immigrant population and compared to a control condition, but that priming the notion of dependency again eliminated this effect. We also found that this change in attitudes in the dependency (vs. other) conditions led to increased support for using part of a state budget to provide scholarships for undocumented immigrants to attend college. Taken together, results suggest that people’s attitudes toward immigrant groups are malleable, and a focus on how the country needs immigrants (as opposed to how immigrants need the country) can result in more positive attitudes and inclusive policy support.

Immigrants’ Voting Rights and Representation: Evidence from Switzerland

Mike Nicholson and Didier Ruedin

Since the 1970s, 17 European states and several sub-national regions across Europe have granted some non-citizens the right to vote in local elections. Proponents of immigrant voting argue that such policies enhance immigrants’ voice in local politics and expand democracy to all residents of a given polity. While many political scientists have discussed non-citizen voting rights from a normative perspective, however, few have sought to empirically gauge the effects of the institution of non-citizen voting rights on immigrants’ representation. To what degree does the institution of immigrant voting rights enhance policymakers’ responsiveness to non-citizens? Broadly speaking, the effects of non-citizen voting rights laws on policymakers’ responsiveness to immigrants are under-researched.

In this paper, we seek to answer the above questions through a novel research design that exploits Switzerland’s unique institutional diversity. First, we assembled a dataset of towns in Switzerland with similar demographic and political characteristics but

differential immigrant voting rights laws. We next randomly selected 27 matched pairs of communes. For each element of each matched pair, we sent two rounds of e-mails to six randomly-selected elected municipal MPs as well as two rounds to the matched municipalities' general administrative office, in the official language of the selected municipality. In each round, each representative or municipal administration received an e-mail requesting basic information about services commonly provided by Swiss municipalities (motorcycle permits or trash collection). These e-mails ostensibly originated from either a recent immigrant to Switzerland or a recent transplant from another Swiss canton. Over the course of several weeks, each representative received one e-mail from an ostensible immigrant and one nearly-identical e-mail from an ostensible Swiss native. We randomly varied the ostensible nationality of the immigrant e-mail sender and the gender of all e-mail senders to ensure that response rates were not simply an artifact of senders' gender or ethnicity.

By comparing response rates to the two e-mails to representatives located in cantons where immigrants possess differential voting rights, we expect to be able to isolate the effect of voting rights on response rates and response quality (*vis-à-vis* immigrants). We expect that this difference-in-differences design will enable us to convincingly argue that differences in response rates stem from differences in voting rights and not from cantonal differences or differences in the characteristics of the individuals requesting information.

Revisiting Community-Driven Reconstruction in Liberia using Intergroup Contact Theory

Sheree Bennett

Community-Driven Reconstruction is a popular aid delivery mechanism that aims to improve social cohesion in conflict-affected contexts. It aims to strengthen social ties among community groups by inviting them to collaborate in addressing common local problems. However, the strategy lacks explicit theory about how working together might improve social cohesion. Intergroup contact theory states that positive interaction between groups can lead to more positive intergroup attitudes and behaviors. Although there is a growing body of research examining the impact of CDR, the strategy is yet to be examined using the social psychological framework of the intergroup contact theory. Given the similarity in principle and objective, intergroup contact theory is a plausible framework for elaborating and assessing CDR's potential for improving social cohesion. This paper discusses the theory's applicability to CDR and proposes a study using data from an evaluation of a CDR program.

Stateways versus Folksways: The Role of Authority Approval in Intergroup Contact

Ruth Ditzmann, Robin Gomila and Betsy Levy Paluck

Around the world, educators, policy makers, profit- and non-profit-based organizations and governments implement intergroup contact interventions to overcome prejudice. These “people-to-people” encounters rarely happen in a vacuum. To the contrary, they often occur in the middle of heated public debates, and sometimes even during or in the aftermath of wars. Allport recognized the importance of the context of intergroup contact interventions as early as 1954 when he postulated authority approval as one of the conditions for optimal intergroup contact. Yet, more than 60 years later, we still do not know whether authority approval or disapproval causes positive or negative bias in intergroup interactions.

Very little previous research has investigated if and how an authority’s position on intergroup relations troubles or improves one-on-one especially if the contact experience itself is negative. When discussing the need for anti-discrimination laws, Allport deviated from most of his contemporaries who believed in the primacy of individuals over laws as sources of prejudice and hate. He proposed that “stateways” (the position of governmental and non-governmental authorities) and “folkways” (individual levels of prejudice and stereotyping) interact (Allport, 1979). The current research puts this idea to a rigorous empirical test.

We conducted one survey experiment taking the form of a 2 (authority disapproval: salient versus not salient) X 2 (intergroup contact: positive versus negative) design. The experiment took place in a region where authority approval of the presence, safety and equality of low status groups is low (Arizona). For outcomes we measured discrimination and negative attitudes towards Latinos. We selected Arizona immigration laws as our authority disapproval case for two reasons: First, to stay close to Allport’s original writing we focus on restrictive laws as authorities. Second, based on the Immigration Climate Index (Pham & Pham, 2014) Arizona ranked last among all US states in terms of friendliness of climate with regards to immigrants’ daily lives.

Our main hypothesis is that intergroup contact and salience of authority disapproval interact to predict discrimination. The highest level of discrimination should occur when a contact experience is negative and authority disapproval salient, the lowest level should occur when a contact experience is positive and authority disapproval not salient. We also plan to investigate the role of a few interesting moderators (authoritarianism, political orientation, support for current governor, local pride etc.). We present and discuss preliminary results from our experiment. We also discuss the drawbacks and benefits of “manipulating” authority disapproval by making it salient in a survey experiment.

How Should Democracies Regulate Demonstrations of Religious Groups? Muslim Integration, Policy Decision and Citizen Response

Richard Traunmüller and Marc Helbling

Western democracies face the challenge of politically integrating Muslim immigrants – a group of increasing importance but whose traditional religiosity is often viewed as a detrimental to Western liberal values, secularism, and even democracy. While democracies cannot deny religious groups an active role in public and political life, they have to defend themselves against radical groups. In this paper we argue that democratic states face yet another challenge in regulating (radical) religious groups because they also have to take into account citizens' reactions. To test the causal impact of liberal or restrictive policy on citizen attitudes toward religious groups we came up with a simple online survey experiment, which we embedded in a vignette study fielded in the UK in the summer 2015. The experimental design is based on a full factorial analysis that manipulates the immigrant status of a fictitious group (immigrants or native British), their religious identity (Muslim or Christian) and their religious behavior (non-practicing, devout or radical). Over 4000 respondents were asked to state their general feelings towards these groups and to what extent they deserve welfare benefits, and whether they should have political rights. Moreover, respondents were randomly assigned to either of two different policy conditions: the first provides the respondents with a restrictive policy response to the demands made by a religious group, whereas the second frames the vignette in terms of a liberal policy. Based on a causal mediation analysis framework, our results suggest that liberal policy harms religious groups because citizens tend to react negatively to liberal regulation and in response increase negative feelings toward those groups. Interestingly, moderate religious groups – devout Muslims and non-practicing Christians – suffer the most from this reaction, whereas citizens' attitudes towards radical religious groups remain unchanged by policy.

Tough immigration policy: Is it about rule of law or ethnocentric defense of cultural identity?

Sahana Mukherjee, Glenn Adams, and Ludwin Molina

Many governments have enacted tough policies that take a punitive approach to immigration. An example in the United States is Arizona Senate Bill (SB) 1070 (2010), which *requires* law enforcement officers to determine a person's residence status when "reasonable suspicion exists that the person ... is unlawfully present in the United States." Although the legitimacy of such tough anti-immigration policies depends upon the extent to which people perceive them as race- or identity-neutral (i.e., colorblind), our work suggests that support for such legislation is very much about racialized exclusion rather than enforcement of laws. One study among U.S. students documented patterns of ethnocentric bias in enforcement of immigration laws – specifically, a

tendency to support harsh punishment for undocumented migrants but not for the U.S. employers who illegally employ them - that were strongly related to an ethnocentric form of engagement with national identity (nationalism; Mukherjee, Molina, & Adams, 2011). Another series of studies documented that U.S. participants' support for enactment of policies like SB 1040 was dependent on national origin (greater for of Mexican versus Canadian migrants; Mukherjee, Molina, & Adams, 2013). Across all these studies, patterns of ethnocentric bias were particularly pronounced among participants who defined American identity in terms of assimilation to Anglocentric cultural values. In this presentation, we report an extension of the work in which we experimentally manipulated identity fit and national origin. U.S. participants read about an officer who observed a discretionary speeding infraction and made a traffic stop of a car that displayed either a Mexican, Canadian (Study 1), or Irish (Study 2) flag and carried a driver and 4 passengers who displayed either high or low fit (through cues such as language and music choice) with Anglocentric constructions of U.S. identity. Over the course of the traffic stop, the officer decided that the occupants' behavior aroused "reasonable suspicion" about documentation status, so he asked them to produce identification documents and detained them when they failed to do so. Participants indicated suspicion about documentation status of the occupants and judged the appropriateness of punitive law enforcement at several points during the unfolding interaction. Both studies revealed hypothesized effects of national origin and identity fit on suspicion such that participants indicated more doubt about documentation status when occupants were Mexican (versus Canadian or Irish) or displayed low identity fit. Both studies also revealed hypothesized effects of national origin and identity fit on support for punitive law enforcement, although the effect of national origin was limited to violations of traffic law (which led to scrutiny regarding violation of immigration law) and did not extend to violations of immigration law, per se. In general, results again suggest that support for tough immigration policies has more to do with ethnocentric exclusion and defense of cultural identity than it does colorblind enforcement of laws.

When the Sorting Hat Does Not Sort: A Natural Experiment on Culture

Joan Ricart-Huquet and Betsy Levy Paluck

What is the impact of a new cultural environment in early adulthood? In particular, are young adults, such as university students, still malleable enough to alter their political values, level of student activism or inter-personal solidarity because of their cultural environment? Scholars have long debated the extent to which our social and cultural environment affects our character, values and behaviors in issues like our ideology and identity, our tolerance for diversity, or our work-life balance. Some scholars suggest that most of our character is formed during our childhood and teenage years; others claim that

we keep changing those values throughout adulthood; and yet another set of scholars takes some position in between. In the last couple of decades, several studies have shown that college peers hardly affect a student's academic performance, but they can affect our social habits and values to some extent. In sum, there is mixed evidence on the effects of intergroup and intercultural contact.

We take advantage of a natural setting where two facts allow us to understand whether and to what extent individuals change their beliefs and behaviors past their teenage years as a result of their sociocultural environment. The setting is Makerere University, one of the main institutions of higher education in Africa since colonial times. The first fact is that newly admitted students are randomly assigned with a JavaScript administered by the University to one of the nine Halls of Residence. Second, some of the Halls have a strong and distinct culture established decades ago, defined as a system of meaning linked to a set of available behavioral practices. Qualitative fieldwork and pilot surveys allowed for the description of each hall's culture in advance of the main survey and behavioral games. Preliminary results suggest that hall culture has little or no effect academic and political values and behaviors. However, it affects time preferences and levels of self-reported and behavioral interpersonal trust, generosity towards peers and a group's willingness to be taxed. The mechanisms driving those differences seem to involve explicit coordination practices that enhance social cohesion. We discuss the implications of these findings for the literature that highlights the importance of social cohesion and trust for decision-making, collective action and economic development.

Affirmative Action and Effort Choice: An Experimental Investigation

Juliana Silva-Gonçalves, Uwe Dulleck, Anita Lee Hon, Markus Schaffner and Stephen Whyte

In this study we investigate the effect of affirmative action on effort in an experiment conducted in high schools in socioeconomically disadvantaged areas in Queensland, Australia. All participating schools have a large representation of indigenous Australians, a population group that is frequently targeted by affirmative action. We implement an affirmative action policy in a pure effort experiment. In the first stage, we rank participants based on their performance in a simple real-effort task. Our experiment offers a monetary incentive to be ranked in the top third. In the second stage, we provide the bottom third with a positive handicap to increase their chances to achieve this target. We study the effect on effort of such policy. Our findings show that it increases effort in the task of those that the rule aims to favor, without discouraging effort of those who are indirectly penalized by affirmative action.

Changing structures by changing perceptions: Effects of values affirmation for pre-medical and Latin@ students

Rebecca Mohr, Kate Turetsky and Valerie Purdie-Vaughns

High rates of attrition in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields in colleges and universities represents a growing problem as the need for STEM professionals in the United States outpaces those earning STEM degrees (Chen, 2013; Olson & Riordan, 2012). Attrition from health-related areas of STEM, such as pre-medical academic tracks, may be particularly severe. Given decades of empirical and theoretical research documenting the importance of psychological factors in educational outcomes, one contributor to academic attrition may be psychological threat (the appraisal that situational demands are greater than one's resources and abilities; Blascovich & Mendes, 2000), and, in particular, self-image threat (perceived threat to one's sense of personal adequacy; Spencer, Josephs, & Steele, 1993). For racial minorities whose social groups are especially underrepresented in STEM fields, such as Latin@ students, this psychological threat may be compounded by social identity threat (concern about being treated with bias because of one's social identity; Steele, Spencer, & Aronson, 2002), further undermining STEM retention and engagement. The current research examines the effect of a brief values affirmation, an intervention designed to buffer individuals from psychological threat, on students in a pre-medical biology course. We find that, while students in the control condition exhibit threat-related erosion of their interpersonal relationships in the course, values affirmation strengthens students' academic social networks against threat and leads to greater retention in STEM. In addition, subgroup analyses indicate that values affirmation may reduce concern about being treated with bias and bolster feelings of belonging for Latin@ students vulnerable to social identity threat. Together, these results suggest that values affirmation helped students perceive the course as less threatening, leading to positive changes in their psychological, social, and academic outcomes.

Remembrance Day Influence on National Sentiments and Hostility towards Out-groups: Evidence from a Panel Study in Israel

Gal Ariely

While scholars have long emphasized the significant impact of national days on the masses, the actual impact of national days on people's national sentiments have been ignored. This study set out to examine the ways in which exposure to Remembrance Day impacts national sentiments and hostility towards out-groups. Unlike previous cross-sectional-design studies, it adopted longitudinal design in order to explore the actual impact of exposure to Remembrance Day amongst Israeli Jews. While exposure to Remembrance Day increased the respondents' sense of nationalism, neither their level of national identification and hostility towards out-groups nor the

magnitude of the positive link between nationalism and hostility towards out-groups changed significantly. While national identification was unrelated to hostility prior to Remembrance Day, it became negatively related to it on Remembrance Day itself. The findings shed new light on the prevalent assumption regarding the impact national days have on public sentiment.

Assessing Refugee Resettlement and Integration Outcomes in the United States

Jeremy Ferwerda and Justin Gest

How does the refugee resettlement process influence subsequent integration outcomes? To evaluate this question, we draw on a unique dataset that covers employment and background characteristics for 29,000 recently settled refugees within the United States. Leveraging the quasi-random assignment of refugees across resettlement locations, we estimate the effect of the local resettlement environment on integration. Our findings suggest that geographic context strongly influences subsequent employment outcomes, regardless of refugee demographics. Finally, we briefly outline a panel survey, to be implemented later this year, which will track integration outcomes over a three-year period.

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