

CONFIDENTIAL - FOR PEER-REVIEW ONLY
Immigrant rights and public opposition to immigration (#70539)

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A non-anonymized version (containing author names) should be made available by the authors when the work it supports is made public.

1) Have any data been collected for this study already?

No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?

The study seeks to test the idea that people are more permissive of immigration if immigrants receive fewer rights upon their entry to the country. The main research question is the following: Does the restriction of immigrants' post-entry rights increase people's willingness to admit new immigrants? I expect that respondents are more willing to approve an immigrant permit that is of temporary duration and granting no access to welfare benefits. In a second part, the study seeks to assess to what degree economic and cultural characteristics of immigrants and the country context influence the effect of rights-restrictions on people's willingness to admit immigrants. I expect that the effect of rights-restrictions is stronger for immigrants with a larger cultural distance, lower level of education and lower in the United States (settler nation) than in Switzerland (guest-worker country).

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

The outcome and key dependent variable is respondents' immigration preferences in terms of their willingness to admit immigrants to their country. Respondents are asked to what extent they are in favour or against the approval of a specific immigration application (vignette), on a scale from 0 (strongly against) to 10 (strongly in favour).

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?

Participants are selected as a representative sample (balanced on gender, age and education) of the Swiss and US population. Participants will be randomly assigned to this experiment with a 1/3th probability. The other 2/3th will be assigned to different but related experiments. Each participant is shown 10 profiles of immigrant applications (vignettes), which vary systematically in their (i) age (ii) gender, (iii) family status, (iv) nationality, (v) level of education, (vi) right to permanent settlement, and (vii) access to welfare benefits.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

The data is analysed using multivariate linear regression models with respondents' judgement of immigrant applications as outcome variable and including all vignette factors simultaneously as independent variables and 'control' for respondents characteristics. I cluster standard errors on the respondents level. To test the hypothesized moderation effects, we estimate interaction terms between the vignette factors. Separate models are estimated for the United States and Switzerland.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

We will exclude participants who gave the same fairness rating on all 10 vignettes. We will exclude participants who did not finish the experiment. For robustness analyses, we will exclude participants who did not complete the entire survey and participants who completed the survey in less than 1 minute, and in more than 1 hour.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.

Depending on budget constraints and the final length of the survey, we will have 500 participants in Switzerland and 500 in the US. Each participant evaluates 10 profiles, resulting in a sample size of 5000 in Switzerland and 5000 in the US.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

The study measures immigration attitudes, left-right self-placement and the citizenship status of respondents to assess treatment effect heterogeneity.