

#PRIEC-ASU, TEMPE, AZ
FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024
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See titles and abstracts of presentations below program schedule
How to get to Memorial Union Building, Room Alumni Lounge 202
<https://eoss.asu.edu/mu/about/directions>

Panel and time	Presentation 1	Presentation 2
8:30am: Coffee, Pastries, & Intro Remarks 8:30AM		
9:00am-9:40am: Panel 1 Explaining Latino Linked Fate and Latino Identity	Kenicia Wright & Jordin Tafoya Beyond the Suffix: A Qualitative Exploration of Latina/o Identity	Gerson Guevara Latino Political Identity: A Computational Approach
BREAK 10 minutes		
9:50am-10:30am: Panel 2 Latino Views of the System	Matthew Dempsey Latina/o Rights and Public Perception of Judicial Bias	Jordin Tafoya Perceptions of Redistricting: Exploring Minority Preferences, Representation, Efficacy, and Behavior.
BREAK 10 minutes		
10:40am-11:20am: Panel 3 Data Analytics and the Voting Rights Act	David Lopez Which Denominator? CVAP vs. VAP and When to Account for Turnout in Estimating Vote Choice by Race in Native American VRA Claims	Michael Herndon Racial Bias in Election Related Signature Verification – Using a Lab Experiment to Uncover Causes and Remedies
11:20am-12:00pm: ANNOUNCEMENTS		
12:00pm - 12:50pm: LUNCH		

12:50pm-1:30pm: Panel 4 ANALYSES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CANDIDATES	Yulenni Venegas Representing the Real Latino Electorate. Far Right Latinas, Group Capture and Alternative Visions of Latinidad	Jason Morin Private Detention Be Banned? Explaining the Decisino to Co-Sponsor the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act Among House Democrats
BREAK 10 minutes		
1:40pm-2:20pm: Panel 5 POLITICS & NEWS MEDIA COVERAGE	Andrea Borbon, Zoey Paredes, and Francisco Pedraza The Coverage of Racial Groups in Local Newspapers	
BREAK 10 minutes		
2:30pm-3:10pm: Panel 6 EXPERIMENTS IN ATTITUDES TOWARDS IMMIGRANTS	Allison Sauer Kids in Cages: When Empathy-Based Immigration Appeals are “Too Much”	Cesar Vargas The Role of Shared Political Ideology on Immigrant Preferences
BREAK 10 minutes		
3:20pm-3:40pm: Panel 6	Silvia Gonzalez-Gorman & Natasha Altema Examining African American Public Opinion Attitudes Towards Immigrant Groups	
3:40-4:00pm CONCLUDING REMARKS		

5:00pm-7:00pm: RECEPTION NEAR CAMPUS

Allison Sauer
PhD Student
UCLA
Proposal for ASUPRIEC 2024

Kids in Cages: When Empathy-Based Immigration Appeals are "Too Much"

Generally, we know that empathy yields concern for minority groups and support for policies that aid that group. However, news about extreme suffering, oppression, and cruelty, which is often meant to trigger empathy and helping behavior, can sometimes feel like “too much.” Can empathetic appeals sometimes backfire, leading individuals to disengage from an issue and deprioritize it in their political decision-making? We consider the case of U.S. immigration policy and immigrant experiences at the U.S.-Mexico border. We use a 3-condition experiment to test whether triggering empathy for a group can sometimes, counter-intuitively, decrease helping behaviors by triggering avoidance mechanisms when particularly disturbing in nature. We look at the effects of these distinct empathy appeals on a variety of attitudes toward immigration policies ranging in terms of being restrictionist versus anti-restrictionist, as well as willingness to engage in various pro-immigrant behaviors and reliance on immigration as a central issue in determining vote choice. We the influence of immigration attitudes on vote choice via the marginal effects of hypothetical candidates’ immigration stances in a conjoint experiment. We consider our findings in terms of possible limits of the positive effects of empathy appeals, as well as how we can understand American public opinion regarding immigration broadly. This study also pushes the literature on immigration attitudes forward by identifying what moves people from passively supporting immigration to actively seeking anti-restrictionist policy and making immigration a high priority issue in their political decision making.

Andrea Borbon, Zoey Paredes, Francisco I. Pedraza
School of Politics and Global Studies
Arizona State University
Proposal ASUPRIEC 2024

Title: The Coverage of Racial Groups in Local Newspapers

Abstract: We investigate news media coverage of racial groups, analyzing the level of attention that groups receive in daily news. Finding consistent undercoverage of racial minorities, in general, we probe the case of Latinos to further assess 1) the extent which minorities are co-producers of news that mentions them, 2) the degree to which a group’s mentions translate into being centered in the news story, and 3) contours of language used in the group’s narrative. After describing the research approach and presenting detailed findings, the report concludes with a discussion of findings and a set of policy and advocacy recommendations.

Cesar Vargas Nunez
December 4, 2023

Title The role of shared political ideology on immigrant preferences

Abstract: To what extent does a shared political ideology shape attitudes toward immigrants? Past scholarship has demonstrated that Americans prefer highly skilled immigrants unlikely to clash culturally. Immigrants' political beliefs, however, have been ignored. I use a conjoint survey experiment to investigate the impact of shared political beliefs on immigration preferences. It asks respondents to put themselves in the shoes of an immigration officer tasked with deciding which immigrants are worthy of admission into the country. The results show a premium for immigrants who shared respondents' political ideology. At times, shared political beliefs even superseded objective measures of aptitude, such as English fluency or profession. Rather than being perceived as outsiders, like-mindedness allows immigrants to be seen as 'one of us.' Altogether, this paper extends beyond current immigration debates by showing that ideological agreement can shape immigration preferences.

David Lopez (Undergraduate Student)
School of Politics and Global Studies
University of New Mexico
Proposal ASUPRIEC 2024

Title: Which Denominator? CVAP vs. VAP and When to Account for Turnout in Estimating Vote Choice by Race in Native American VRA Claims

Abstract: There is a scarcity of scholarly literature that provides comprehensive guidance on the optimal methods for evaluating vote dilution claims within Native American communities. This analysis adds to the existing body of literature by examining various methods for addressing two significant obstacles encountered when estimating racially polarized voting (RPV) in areas where Native American vote dilution cases are most likely. Utilizing a dataset comprised of 31 counties with the largest share of the Native American population in the United States, I evaluate the following questions: 1) Does using voting age population (VAP) or citizen voting age population (CVAP) as the demographic input into statistical voting models alter results in any substantive way 2) Is Native voter turnout systematically lower than white turnout, and what are the best ways to handle sometimes exceedingly large gaps in white vs. Native turnout? Results from this examination demonstrate that VAP and CVAP models produce similar RPV results; however, when VAP and CVAP data diverge, ecological inference (EI) models likewise diverge. Furthermore, in concurrence with already established literature, Native American turnout is systematically lower than Non-Hispanic White turnout; however, in areas where significant gaps in turnout between these two groups exist, RPV estimation is more accurate when incorporating no vote into the estimation equation.

Gerson Guevara (graduate student)
Michigan State University
Proposal ASUPRIEC 2024

Title: Latino Political Identity: A Computational Approach

Abstract: Large N-surveys represent some of the most critical sources of data and information for studying minority populations. However, much of the research done with survey data relies on a deductive approach that considers certain variables more consistently than others. Furthermore, many of these variables are highly correlated. In the context of Latino identity, past studies have found mixed results on the effect of such a concept; with the effect of Latino identity being dependent on factors such as group consciousness, pan-ethnic identification, or threat. I utilize a computational approach to feature selection within the 2020 Collaborative Multiracial Post-Election Survey to determine what the strongest predictors for linked fate are and whether there are important heterogeneities within the Latino sample. By utilizing fuzzy forests methods, I can create variable importance rankings that fully consider the collinearity between many variables of interest and provide variables that have the most predictive ability. Additionally, fuzzy forests have the ability to consider large amounts of variables without the risk of overfitting. This allows me to make use of the full survey data. Preliminary analysis has yielded interesting results and imply that Latino evaluations of other racial minority groups, experiences related to immigration and discrimination, and perceptions of representation are important predictors of linked fate.

Jason Morin (Professor)
California State University, Northridge
Proposal ASUPRIEC 2024

Private Detention be Banned? Explaining the Decision to Cosponsor the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act Among House Democrats

Abstract: In the wake of Trump's zero tolerance policy, which led to family separation, the Democratic Party began to take a noticeable shift in its position towards prison privatization and privatized immigrant detention. While many Democrats have taken formal positions on legislation by opposing private prison companies and their expansion into immigrant detention, other members within the Democratic camp have not. The goal of this study is to address the variation in position taking by examining the extent to which House Democrats cosponsored the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act—a bill that seeks to curb immigrant detention and phase out the use of private immigrant detention facilities. Given the Democratic Party's increasing support for liberal immigration policies, we expect special interests, such as the private prison industry, to have little-to-no influence on Democrat's decision to cosponsor the bill. Instead, House Democrat's decision to cosponsor will be primarily motivated by their ideological predispositions and their constituencies. Our findings not only have implications for the Democratic Party and the positions they take on immigration policy more broadly, but also the elimination of privatized detention in the U.S.

Proposal ASUPRIEC 2024

Jordin Tafoya

Arizona State University

Title: Perceptions of Redistricting: Exploring Minority Preferences, Representation, Efficacy, and Behavior

Abstract: What is the effect of redistricting on individual-level perceptions and behavior in the electoral process? By examining four pivotal research questions, I investigate the impact of perceptions of (1) reapportionment and (2) redistricting outcomes on political efficacy, the quality of legislative representation, and emotional responses to election outcomes. Further, this paper analyzes the factors shaping public beliefs regarding the principles of redistricting and the preferences for redrawing electoral districts. I scrutinize whether perceptions of fairness in the redistricting process are driven by strategic partisan interests, concerns related to racial groups, or other factors. Moreover, I explore how these perceptions are linked to political participation and voter turnout. In sum, this study offers new perspectives on the nuanced interplay between redistricting perceptions and political attitudes, participation, and trust in the democratic process.

Kenicia Wright (Associate Professor, ASU)

Jordin Tafoya (Graduate student, ASU)

#ASUPRIEC, January 19, 2024

Title: "Beyond The Suffix: A Qualitative Exploration of Latina/o Identity"

Abstract: There are more than 62 million Latinas/os in the US and their size, political engagement, and influence motivates scholars to examine a host of research questions. Existing research suggests that social identities have important consequences on the political behavior and public opinion of Americans, however, studies suggest that there is greater fluidity in many identities of Latinas/os than non-Hispanic Blacks and non-Hispanic Whites, two of the most extensively studied racial/ethnic groups in the US. This fluidity is not surprising, as "Latina/o" is a broad term that is inclusive of people from different countries of origin, cultures, and beliefs, and likely contributions to greater heterogeneity in this community.

How do Latinas/os Americans describe themselves? Do these self-descriptions explain other identities, such as their partisan affiliation and political ideology? Recognizing that people are comprised of multiple characteristics that impact their power and identities, we apply intersectionality to argue that self-descriptions will vary based on personal experiences, generational status, and gender and will influence Latina/o partisan affiliation and political ideology. We study open-ended responses from a nationally representative sample of more than 1,000 Latinas/os to examine their self-descriptions and estimate a series of ordered probit models to examine how effectively these self-descriptions explain their partisan affiliation and political ideology. Results provide support for our expectations – we find variation in how Latinas/os identify themselves based on their personal characteristics and their self-descriptions have significant explanatory power on other politically related identities. This paper highlights the promise of mixed methods approaches to uncovering understudied, complex dimensions of Latina/o identity.

Matthew Dempsey (Associate Teaching Professor)
School of Politics and Global Studies
Arizona State University
Proposal ASUPRIEC 2024

Title: Latina/o Rights and Public Perceptions of Judicial Bias

Abstract: Are judges seen differently when ruling for or against a case that might appear to benefit an individual's social identity? Legitimacy is essential for the effective functioning of courts and requires, among other things, judicial impartiality. However, perceptions of impartiality are complex, and citizens may perceive judicial bias based on a judge's real or perceived social group identity. Using experimental data, this paper argues and empirically demonstrates that citizens perceive judicial decisions that expand rights for Latinas/os individuals as more biased when they know the judge to be a Latina/o. These findings are important because they complicate notions of judicial legitimacy by showing that minority judges are disadvantaged in that they are perceived as more biased due to their real or perceived social identities. Moreover, these findings expand our understanding of how perceptions of descriptive representation for the Latina/o community, and other minority groups more broadly, affect judicial legitimacy.

Michael Herndon (graduate student)
Department of Political Science
UCLA
Proposal ASUPRIEC 2024

Title:

Racial Bias in Election Related Signature Verification - Using a Laboratory Experiment to Uncover Causes and Remedies

Abstract:

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has ushered in a new reliance on non-traditional voting methods, as over 43 percent of voters utilized vote-by-mail (VBM) in the 2020 general election. While this sweeping transition has increased convenience for many voters, it has opened a door for another form of voter suppression: ballot rejection. In the 2020 general election, **over 560 thousand vote-by-mail ballots were rejected nationwide**. VBM ballot rejections are an important component to election outcomes, yet their causes and effects are largely understudied. Are rejected ballots randomly distributed, or are they felt unequally by certain racial or ethnic groups? What can explain patterns of ballot rejection in election administration? I theorize that racial bias among ballot reviewers is at play and offer an original experiment to measure its effects on signature review.

Silvia Gonzalez-Gorman (Associate Professor)
Natasha Altema McNeely (Associate Professor)
Department of Political Science
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Proposal ASUPRIEC 2024

Title: Examining African American Public Opinion Attitudes Towards Immigrant Groups

Abstract: This research examines attitudes and opinions of African Americans in the U.S. towards immigrants and other racial and ethnic groups including (but not limited to) Latinos and Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders. The research contributes towards existing literature on group threat and racial and ethnic minority group attitudes as well as expanding the existing literature about how priming affects the attitudes of racial and ethnic minorities. The research question examined is: to what extent does negative priming influence African Americans' racial attitudes towards immigrants? Using a nationwide Qualtrics survey, preliminary results indicate that African American attitudes towards immigrants groups were influenced by various factors such as the 2020 Presidential election, the rhetoric on COVID, and income levels.

Yulenni Venegas (graduate student)
School of Politics and Global Studies
University of Washington
Proposal ASUPRIEC 2024

Title: Representing the Real Latino Electorate: Far Right Latinas, Group Capture, and Alternate Visions of Latinidad

Abstract: Utilizing four border-district Texan candidates as case studies, this paper examines the ways that GOP Latina candidates frame themselves as both embodying and representing the "real Latino electorate," who they claim has been ignored by the U.S. political arena. Through an in-depth analysis of these candidates – including content analyses of their public interviews, speeches, advertisements, websites, newspaper coverage, and social media presences – I find that the strategic reframing of Latinidad and the immigrant experience to align with Republican ideology allows these candidates to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform while simultaneously engaging in the Latino threat narrative that dehumanizes the very community they claim to represent. I argue that at the root of these candidates' appeals is the belief that Latinos have become a captured group, which has fundamentally shaped their politics, appeals, and is at least partially responsible for their choice to walk away from the Democrat party.