College Students' Attitudes Toward Immigration within the United States


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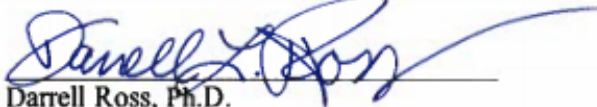**Thesis**
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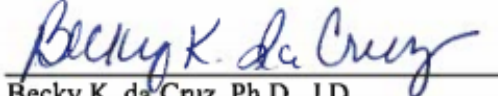Professor of Criminal Justice

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ABSTRACT

A common debate in today's college classrooms center around immigration, and it is a current social issue within the United States. It is important to understand college students' attitude on immigration as they will be the ones to address the issue in the future. In this paper, I attempt to understand southeastern college student's attitudes toward immigration by looking at demographic information and how this information influences college student's attitude on immigration. Based on this assumption, the study will attempt to discover if you can predict certain immigration opinions based on demographic information. By using surveys, the study attempts to reach conclusions on these goals. Chi squares and ordinal regression test were used as forms of data analysis to come to conclusion for the research goals.

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

With a change in immigration demographics in the last 20 years, there has been a debate over the understanding of the needs of immigrants within our borders (Torrieri, 2012). With these changes, there has been an outcry from certain groups that display hate and negative perceptions toward immigrants. Reciprocally, the people that they hate are the ones that provide multiple services within the United States, such as farming, construction, and other blue-collar positions, notwithstanding their negative acuity (Lee, 2018). Despite often laborious services provided by immigrants, there are still negative perceptions of immigrants within American society. This debate is one of the main issues dividing the United States today; whether the discussion is centered on undocumented or documented immigration, there is still an increase of public attitudes to decrease immigration (Simon & Sikich, 2007). The disapproving attitudes can negatively affect immigrant assimilation, immigrant policy implications, and immigrants' quality of life (Garcini et al., 2018; Sullivan, 2018).

In the recent era, ethnocultural backgrounds have increased through diversity efforts; thus, more individuals relate to the humanistic perspective, which has provided an understanding of immigration-related concerns. Despite of the increase of society's humanistic understanding, our society places value on the cost-benefit analysis of social change, in which they have failed to understand the cost-benefit analysis of immigrants within their society (Santana, 2018). This denotes that while the perception of minority interpersonal values may have changed, individuals continue to push anti-immigration rhetoric due to our failure to understand immigration's benefit. Due to current changes surrounding immigration, it is important to understand current public

attitudes concerning immigration. The purpose of this study is to examine public attitudes concerning immigration.

**Problem Statement:**

Immigration has become a national issue for decades, but recently the debate has skyrocketed in the United States' current political climate. Some in our society have come to blame an abundance of social problems on immigration, "such as crime, unemployment, and government welfare programs" (Martinez & Valenzuela, 2006). Some in our society have constructs the collective idea that immigrants engage in more crime, are unemployed, use American resources with no input, and are draining the welfare system. While these constructions are false, some in our society have continued to address immigration under these concerns (Ousey & Kubrin, 2009). Normally, these stigmatized perceptions are derived from socialization, and society can only obtain change through resocialization (Murnane, 2008; Shireman, 1987).

Kunst, Thomsen, and Dovidio found that "over 40% of Americans have negative perceptions of immigration, regardless of illegal or legal status, which exemplifies a part of the main problem" (2018, p.810). In addition, these perceptions manifest through the socialization of social institutions, such as media, family, and religion (Jagers, Bingham, & Hans, 1996; Margolis, 2018; Schänzel & Smith, 2014). The overall issue facing our society within the context of immigration is the perceived negative public attitudes concerning immigrants and how common negative opinions are. There have been multiple issues addressed trying to understand the concept of immigration, how it intersects with social institutions and public attitudes toward immigration.

The focus of this study is to understand southeastern college student's attitudes on immigration within the United States. While immigration is a large field, it is important to narrow down the specific attitudes that this study was to research. The first area of southeastern college student's attitudes included in the study was the opinions regarding undocumented immigrants, documented immigrants, and naturalized citizens. Furthermore, the research examined immigration policy within multiple fields, such as the criminal justice system and social welfare programs. These sections will be used to look at public attitudes regarding immigration within the United States.

**Significance**

This study has the potential to better society through contributing to the understanding of attitudes on immigration. When society does not place a negative stigma on immigrants, they will be better able to adapt to the current culture (Alba and Nee, 2003). Furthermore, immigrants will feel more embraced into society and motivate immigrants to assimilate further into society (Gans, 1997). The potential findings from this study can be used to better understanding which portions of the population have specific opinions regarding immigration opinion. Thus, they can be used to attempt to better inform these groups with factual knowledge. The end goal of this study is to understand southeastern college student's attitudes toward immigration. Furthermore, by looking at demographic information, such as sex and race/ethnicity the study will attempt to determine if these aspects influence immigrant opinions. As an example, does being a male make you more likely to support immigrant detention facilities?

Chapter 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

***Immigration Definitions***

It is important to define the concepts of documented immigrants and undocumented immigrants. This is a difficult question because an immigrant is a social construct with variation among different groups. Essentially, an immigrant is an individual that migrates from one country to another. The individual migrates from a country of origin, or a different location, to a non-native country. For this study, an immigrant is someone that enters the United States intending to live a productive life and has plans to live within the country for extended periods (Schaeffer and Kahsai, 2011).

The word immigrant can be dichotomized into undocumented immigrants and undocumented immigrants. Documented immigrants have permission to migrate to this new country for multiple reasons, such as school, work, and the path to citizenship. Documented immigration normally obtain permission through permeant resident visas. Undocumented immigrants currently do not have permission to be in a country. Furthermore, studies, such as Schaeffer and Kahsa, have noted examples that do not constitute undocumented immigrations' permission to be in a country such as, "ignoring the conditions of a visa to enter, such as staying beyond the expiration of the visa, not reporting to hearings regarding asylum applications or engaging in activities excluded by the visa" (2011, p. 1). Many undocumented immigrants arrive through multiple avenues, such as the DACA program (Muñoz and Vigil, 2018). Also, about 40% of undocumented immigrants overstayed the terms of their status without authorization, such as H2-B workers (Warren, 2019). These are only two of many factors that explain how

many undocumented immigrants are allowed to come into our country lawfully but then lose their right to citizenship.

Immigration law uses different terminologies regarding immigration definitions. Legal standards point out the all immigrations, whether documented or undocumented, are labeled as "aliens". Aliens, according to federal statues are, "any person not a citizen or national of the United States" (8 U.S.C. § 1101). While it is not in the current language of law, the federal statues do note that there are stipulations related to documented and undocumented status regrading "aliens". Certain aspects, such as governmental ambassadors and bona fide students, are excluding from undocumented "alien" status (8 U.S.C. § 1184). Yet, for the purpose of this study, I will follow the directed definitions listed as the binary notion of documented and undocumented.

Another important definition that needs to be explained in relation to this study is naturalized citizens. Naturalization is a method that is used in the United State to grant citizenship to individuals that have been deemed as lawful, permanent residents. In addition, they must meet particular requirements that have been set forth by Congress in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) of 1952. Requirements for naturalization are based on residence, absences, physical presence, moral character, determination, and potential threats to national security (8 U.S.C. §1427). The law establishes residence on the claim that the individual must reside within the United States, within the same state for at least five years and the five years leading up to their naturalization application (8 U.S.C. §1427). In addition, they must reside within the United States from their original application date until their citizenship is approved (8 U.S.C. §1427). Other admission requirements, such as physical presence and moral character are only based on the notion that the individuals have followed the rules set forth under the residence

and absences subsections and has displayed irrefutable evidence of good moral character. These prerequisites are set forth and determined as the burden of proof to the naturalization process within the United States, and without them individuals cannot reach citizenship (8 U.S.C. § 1429).

### *Immigration and Legal Precedent*

There are multiple laws and statutes that regulate immigration, yet one of the most important sources of law is the precedent established by the United States Supreme Court. The Court has established multiple precedents that covers the scope outside of congressional statutes on immigration issues. One common area of contention is on the violation of due process rights. *Yick Wo v. Hopkins* (1886) and *Wong Wing v. United States* (1896) both established that undocumented immigrants were entitled to due process rights in the United States based on the principles and the wording of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution. The Fifth amendment notes that "No persons shall be…deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law…" (U.S. Const. amend. V). While the Fourteenth Amendment notes, "…nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law…" (U.S. Const. amend. XIV). The Supreme Court ruled in both cases that these amendments establish the basis of due process rights for immigrants. Another important case is *Yamataya v. Fisher*, (1903), which set the precedent that the United States government can regulate the influx of immigrants and deport certain classes of immigrants. In addition, the courts added the stipulation that the United States government must understand that deportation actions are subjected to constitutional enquiry under the due process clause. Other cases, such as *Shaughnessy v. United States ex rel. Mezei* (1953) and *Landon v. Plascencia* (1982), found that while due process rights are established for immigrants, when they leave the United States and

try to reenter those same rights are not always applicable. The *Shaughnessy* case notes that that the continuous barring of a noncitizen without a court hearing does not equal to unlawful detention (*Shaughnessy v. United States ex rel. Mezei* (1953)). This ruling established the precedent that denying noncitizens a court hearing would not be deemed unconstitutional. This position is based on the judicial precedent that noncitizens that are seeking entry do not possess constitutional rights, such as, the expectation of due process (*Knauff v. Shaughnessy* (1950). The Supreme Court found in the *Landon* case, " that the INS had the statutory authority to determine the admissibility of a permanent resident alien in an exclusion hearing, but that permanent resident aliens may claim the protections of the due process clause in such proceedings" (*Landon v. Plascencia* (1982)). Another due process case is *Jennings v. Rodriguez* (2018). The Supreme Court ruled against the plaintiffs in all three constitutional issues related to bond hearings and due process, such as noncitizens entitlement to bond hearings while facing deportation.

Another common issue that is seen throughout immigration case law is entrance and residency requirements. *Fong Yue Ting v. United States* (1893) was a case that examined requirements for residence, and the Supreme Court ruled that the government does have the ability to regulate residency requirements under the provisions established under the Geary Act of 1892. *Kleindienst v. Mandel* (1972) established similar precedents in that the Supreme Court ruled that the government does have the ability to regulate who is and who is not allowed entry within the United States under the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952. Lastly under, *Mathews v. Diaz* (1976) the Supreme Court held that there are certain residency requirements for receiving United State benefits, and if those resident requirements are not met then an individuals is not being deprived of their due process rights.

*Immigration and Law Enforcement*

It is common for immigrants to interact with law enforcement officers on all three levels of jurisdiction—federal, state, and local. It is common for law enforcement officers to request immigration status of individuals that they believe to be undocumented. Yet, most state and local law enforcement officers mostly only have jurisdiction in handling issues of criminal code violations, while the enforcement of most civil codes that deal with immigration status fall under federal jurisdiction and are dealt by federal law enforcement agencies. There are some areas of law that have concurrent jurisdiction, yet states cannot enforce inconsistent state laws as it would contradict federal statutes. This is based on the Supremacy Clause that states, " "the Laws of the United States ... shall be the supreme Law of the Land ... any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding" (U.S. Const. Art. VI, cl.2). Based on this, most civil matters of immigration are the jurisdiction of federal agencies, while state criminal codes can be enforced by the states.  It is important to note that while states have statues dealing with immigration they cannot be more draconian than federal agencies based on the Supremacy Clause.

A common issue in policing is the ability for law enforcement to ask immigrants to disclose their citizenship status, which could in turn lead to deportation. *Immigration and Naturalization Service v. Delgado*, (1984), set the precedent for this issue among law enforcement and policing. This case noted that if a police officer asks an individual to identify themselves this would result in a mere request, unless the officer demanded that the individual identify themselves, which would result in a Terry Stop (*Immigration and Naturalization Service v. Delgado*, 466 U.S. 210 (1984)). In this case, the officers used a mere request, which would not allow the defendants to invoke a deprivation of rights under the Fourth Amendment.

*Immigration and the Court System*

Since most issues of immigration are civil issues most matters within the court are handled in civil federal courts. If an immigrant has broken criminal codes, then any judicial matter will be handled by the United States Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). The EOIR consists of 58 different administrative immigration courts within the United States, as well as the Board of Immigration Appeals, which functions as the administrate appellate body of the courts. In most cases immigration courts focuses on deportation proceedings and discuss the legal rights of respondents in these cases. Essentially during these proceedings, they are broken down into two parts—the master calendar hearing and the individual calendar hearing. The master calendar hearing is usually a short hearing that can include minor requests, serious challenges that would dismiss the case, and the request of a continuance for a future court proceeding. On the other hand, the individual calendar hearing focuses on individual facts of the case and the decision to admit or deport the individual from the United States. Respondents can file an appeal to reopen or reconsider the original decision with the Board of Immigration Appeals.

One Supreme Court case, *I.N.S. v. Lopez-Mendoza*, (1984) created a major precedent that has affected immigration deportation proceedings since its decision. The case focuses on the issue of unlawful arrest and the exclusionary rule and its use within immigration courts. The Supreme Court notes that, "the "body" or identity of a defendant is never suppressible as fruit of an illegal arrest" (*I.N.S. v. Lopez-Mendoza*, (1984)). Essentially this ruling notes that aspects of our identity cannot be used as the grounds of arrest, such as individuals cannot be arrested based on their suspected immigrant status. On these grounds the deportation proceedings were legal, and unlawful arrest did not occur. The Court continue to discuss that the plaintiff's case is not

subjected to similar protections that are established in criminal cases, as all immigration deportation proceedings are civil in matter. Lastly, the Court noted that the exclusionary rule is not applicable to deportation proceedings as its purpose is linked to preventing misconduct in criminal searches and seizures (*I.N.S. v. Lopez-Mendoza*, (1984)).

Two main issues within immigration court are appearance orders and case backlog. Both are central problems that not only affect the court system but also affect the immigrants. Often while many undocumented immigrants are in detention areas, they are served with appearance orders, which direct that they must appear before an immigration court judge. The main issue with appearance orders is that many immigrants lack the understanding of the order due to language barriers, and thus lack an understanding of the proceedings (Pon, 2019). Another main issue is case backlog. Case backlog refers to the long, drawn-out process of hearing cases in immigration courts. There are multiple issues related to this under the  Sixth and Eighth Amendment, but the main issue is that the time it takes the court to hear immigration cases. The normal amount of time to hear immigration deportation cases is at least four years (Silverman and Lewis, 2017). During this time, many immigrants are held in detention areas, and are forced to stay in these unsuitable areas during their stay.

***Immigration and Incarceration***

While most immigration court proceedings are civil, detention centers are used for holding immigrants within the United States. A common issue is that since immigration is a civil matter, immigrants are not entitled to the same rights as criminal defendants, which can result in a being detained indefinitely. Other issues, such as lack of legal representation can lead to the increased longevity of detainment. While those that face criminal charges will be under federal jurisdiction, there detention will fall under that scope as well, thus resulting in federal

incarceration. Most immigrant detention centers hold individuals that are waiting for deportation proceedings. The Department of Homeland Security oversees the detention centers in which immigrants are usually apprehend by CBP or ICE agents. In 2018, the US government detained nearly 400,000 people in the 200 immigration jails across the country, with a total average daily population of 42,000 (U.S. Immigration Customs Enforcement, 2018). Historically we have seen a rise in the detained immigration population within the United States. Saadi et al. notes, "In 1973, the US government detained a daily average of 2,370 migrants; this number rose to 5,532 by 1994, surged to 34,000 by 2009, and as of 2019 had risen to a record 55,000" (2020, p. 189). There are a number of reasons why the immigrant incarceration population has risen. For-profit prisons and public policy aimed at reducing the immigrant population have played a role in the increase of immigration incarceration (Jefferies, 2019).

One specific Supreme Court case that intersects immigration issues with detention is *Zadvydas v. Davis* (2001). Essentially, in this case the Court ruled that the plenary power doctrine does not authorize the indeterminate detention of immigrants under order of deportation if no other country will accept them (*Zadvydas v. Davis* (2001)). Furthermore, the Court noted that if the any agency was going to prolong detention of an immigrant past six months, then this agency had to specifically show that deportation would include special circumstance that would prolong the process of deportation proceedings (*Zadvydas v. Davis* (2001)). This case established a basis for the length of detention, but the impact should be noted that most agencies can find ways around the judicial precedent founded in this case.

### *Deportations*

The deportation process may be extremely long and is burdened with "red tape" throughout the entire process that continues to drag the process past the point of exhaustion. The

process begins with an arrest from ICE, which stands for Immigration and Customs

Enforcement. ICE can make arrests due to personal suspicion that an individual is an

undocumented immigrated (Ryo, 2016). Furthermore, an arrest can be made if an immigrant is

"likely to escape" before a warrant can be issued. It should be noted that ICE officers can hold an

individual for at a maximum of 48 hours after an arrest (Ryo, 2016).  After the arrest, officers

determine if the immigrant has legal status, and may thus remain in the United States, without

unnecessary delay. If the individual does prove to be undocumented, then the ICE officers will

begin the deportation process. This entire process must take place within the 48-hour period that

is given to officers, and the officers must determine the status of the individual during this time.

Another factor in the deportation process is the use of bond. Officers must provide a list

of legal services for the individual and are evaluated for a bond. There are two main factors in

relation to the release of bonds for immigrants. The first is whether the immigrant is a threat to

society. The second factor is what is the likelihood that the immigrant will not return to their

hearing. There are multiple reasons why the release on bond is important to the immigration

case. The first is that there is a relationship between pretrial detention and subsequent decisions

throughout the criminal process, with one aspect being higher odds of conviction and harsher

sentences (Ryo, 2016). Another reason is that bond decisions have major and lasting

socioeconomic penalties for immigrants.

There many different types of deportations that immigrants have face in relation to this

punishment. Expedited removal is the first type of deportations. Expedited removal is

essentially, "for individuals apprehended at or near the border" (Koh, 2017, p.187). Furthermore,

Koh notes, "The expedited removal statute now states that when a noncitizen seeks to enter the United States and either lacks valid entry documents or presents false documentation the officer shall order the alien removed from the United States without further hearing or review" (2017, p.195). Expedited removal was created under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act in 1996. One of the main issues with this form of deportation is that they often lack access to services, such as consul and appeals, which are normally legally granted in immigration court. Individuals that are in expedited removal are imperiled to criminal procedures that allow CBP officers to use formal removal order (Koh, 2017). On the contrary, undocumented immigrants that face expedited removal can avoid this system by expressing two different reasons for coming to the United States. The first is that the individual notes that they are applying for asylum in the United States. The second notion is that the individual can note that they express a fear of persecution (Koh, 2017).

Another type of deportation is a reinstatement of removal. Reinstatement of removal notes that it is for, "individuals who have previously been removed pursuant to a formal removal order, and subsequently re-entered the country" (Koh, 2017, p.187). This is a different form of deportation because it recognizes that the individual has been removed before and has come back under an undocumented status. Most of the time, the initial removal has been decided in immigration court under a judge. Under this adjudication, there are two different types of removal. The first is a stipulated order of removal, which discusses that "noncitizens agree to the entry of a formal removal order" (Koh, 2017, p.187). The second type is an absentia removal order, which is, "for individuals who do not appear for any immigration court hearing" (Koh, 2017, p.187).  In relation to removal, there are multiple consequences for this removal, and the

main one is a criminal prosecution. There are three main aspects that are related to criminal procedure. The first is that criminal justice professionals must check data logs and prove the existence of a prior removal order. The second is that that criminal justice professionals must make sure that the noncitizen's identity matches that of the prior removal order (Koh, 2017). The last aspect is that criminal justice professional must prove the circumstances of the successive unlawful return.

The last type of deportation is administrative removal. Administrative removal is, "for nonlawful permanent residents with criminal convictions deemed to constitute aggravated felonies under the immigration law" (Koh, 2017, p.187). In these cases, the majority of immigrants are undocumented which, under United States law, allows the courts to deny an immigration court hearing and limited prospects to apply for relief or fight their deportation (Koh, 2017). In these cases, immigration officers directly deliver notices of removal to undocumented immigrants and notice directly shows that the United States government intends to remove them from the country. In addition, the notice shows that every individual has the right to a lawyer, but they will not be provided one by the United States government. Furthermore, Koh mentions that the notice includes information related to, "their right to seek limited immigration relief in the notice of withholding of removal, right to inspect the evidence accompanying the charges, and right to rebut the charges within ten days of service of the notice" (2017, p. 210).

In recent years, deportations have become prominent due to legislative action and policy that has increased deportations as the answer to immigration. Deportations are usually rooted in

a perceived effort to control crime and to establish the legitimacy of immigration laws

(Kanstroom, 2000). Furthermore, under past presidential administrations, the discussion of

deportation and detention centers has been prominent. Research shows that many parents that

bring their kids through the immigration process with undocumented status often lose their

parental rights to their children (Carr, 2018). In relation to child welfare and deportation, 8% of

children run into the risk or losing one or both parents before they turn 18, and 1 in 13 kids with

parents with an undocumented status will lose their parents and be placed in foster care due to

deportations (Carr, 2018). Another issue related to court order deportations is related to women

and domestic violence. Many undocumented and documented immigrant women are failing to

receive adequate services in a domestic violence situation, mainly due to lack of advocacy. Many

undocumented women face domestic violence issues, and sexual assault cases, which affects

their quality of life in relation to immigration court. In addition, even legal immigrants struggle

to receive basic service based on their qualification not reaching the social standard, this issue

arises in undocumented women as well. The lack of domestic violence advocacy has detrimental

effects of immigrant court procedure, detention, and assimilation. Another main issue within

sexual assault cases is that many sexual assault cases among immigrants that would lead to

deportations of the accused are not processed (Brown, 2018). Furthermore, the researcher noted

that this was due to case backlog and insufficient time or evidence (Brown, 2018). Some studies

have observed women's narratives about the influences that impact Latina immigrant victims'

efforts to ask for official assistance through qualitative and narrative figures into their life

experiences in the Midwest (Reina & Lohman, 2015, p.481). One of the main conclusions from

Reina & Lohman's data was that most women lacked qualification for services, such as

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permanent residency, as the most common (2015). In addition, their study highlights that social barriers limited women's access to these services and court proceeding in the legalization process was a major issue that deters women from asking for these services (Reina & Lohman, 2015).

*Immigration and Public Policy*

Public policy plays a major role in increasing anti-immigrant rhetoric ideas because it provides historical systemic examples of forced prejudice. One example is Operation Wetback. Operation Wetback took place through public policy in response to the influx of immigration and led to the mass deportation of Mexican immigrants. "Operation Wetback was implemented in response to the post World War 2 Bracero program, which allowed Mexican farmers to work in the United States, but our society could not control illegal immigration" (Hernandez, 2006, p.426). "The government increased border security and rounded up a plethora of individuals that were working undocumented, and apparently taking American jobs" (Hernandez, 2006, p.427). This program lasted from 1942 until 1964 (Hernandez, 2006). It did not return the immigrants to their homes but rather dumped them in random places in Mexico (Ngai, 2004). Border patrol officers often beat, incarcerated, and shaved the immigrants' heads (Cusack, 2016). Lastly, while immigrants were promised farmland, most could not reclaim the land they had been farming, nor were they allowed to receive their crops' compensation (Ngai, 2004). Another public policy example that shows the historical manifestation of hatred toward immigration is the Immigrant Responsibility Act. The Immigrant Responsibility Act, which was developed in 1996, specifically increases border patrol to lower the entrance of undocumented immigrants. It increased deportation rates because it set aside for the need of due process for immigrants. Children have the same legal rights as adults, and under the 5th amendment, we cannot be deprived of life, liberty, and or property without having due process (U.S. Const. amend V.). The

Immigrant Responsibility Act allows immigration courts to expedite immigrant deportation quickly without a proper review of their case. This is an infringement on the rights of immigrants and is unconstitutional.

Another example of public policy is DACA, which was created to allows children with undocumented status in the United States after being brought to the country as children to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation. DACA is different from the DREAM Act because the DREAM act allows an individual to receive a permanent residency. There are multiple positive aspects of this policy, and one is that it reduces the deportation stress on the American justice system. Furthermore, it works to allow individuals to receive temporary residency within the United States, which allows them time to receive a permanent residency (Cade, 2018). This policy is important because it provides a limited path to an alternative to deportations.

### *Immigration and Crime*

Historically, society has developed recursive practices and collective ideologies geared toward the fear of immigrants, and individuals use this correlation to enact fear. Public policy, such as the Emergency Immigration Act of 1921 and the Immigration Act of 1924, allowed society to fabricate a non-existence correlation between immigration and crime and reduce overall immigration (Martinez and Valenzuela, 2006). In addition, criminologists have concluded that there are multiple aspects, such as economic disadvantages and neighborhood disorganization, that lead individuals to perceive that immigrants increase crime in low-income neighborhoods (Stowell, 2007). Policymakers use these aspects as excuses to blame the main issues, such as poverty, on immigrants and crime. The constant rhetoric produced through a lack of knowledge leads to opinions that deviated from the norm. Researchers have noted that they

often offend less than native-born citizens in the majority of most immigrant groups (Martinez and Lee, 2000). The research concludes that less offending is linked to the age of the newer immigrant populations. Other studies have noted similar results in urban areas (Davies and Fagan, 2012). Davies and Fagan (2012) noted that there is no correlation between the immigrant population and crime.

There are multiple historical examples that immigrants cause crime, such as the growth of deportation in the 1990's immigrants that create a falsified narrative that immigrants commit crimes more often than the average American. This logic was used to say that immigrants are increasing the crime, thus justifying their deportation. Another example in California noted that citizens felt that immigrants were taking "American jobs." When the construct of difference arises as a threat to American aspects, we, as a society, develop xenophobic ideas. In reality, this is just a xenophobic statement to decrease the understanding of cultural differences in our society. Thus, xenophobic individuals criminalize immigrants to create a collective force that wants to limit immigration. On the other hand, researcher Martinez noted that immigration increases economic mobility in areas and stimulates a positive economy by increasing economic mobility (2000). These economic perspectives are an important aspect of understanding the correlation between immigrants and crime; the research points out the correlation between the two variables. Grogger (1998) noted that the reason for the correlation between the two variables could be explained with the idea that the blue-collar job market tends to hire more immigrants for less, which displaces workers. Most blue-collar workers are African American, resulting in their turn to crime to meet economic stability.

Social disorganization theory is important in defining attitudes toward immigrants within this study, specifically concerning crime. The founders of the theory, Shaw and Mckay, used the

previous studies of Burgess and Park's ideas on concentric zone theory to find the correlation of delinquency due to lack of social control and neighborhood (Battin, 2015). Shaw and Mckay developed the theory to explain how dilation in neighborhoods creates disorganization, which leads to the causation of crime. Spatial areas within certain geographical regions are more likely to experience higher crime rates due to a lack of social organization (Park, 2018). The spatial areas with higher crime rates are neighborhoods within the zone of transition (Kubrin and Mioduszewski, 2019). The zone of transition is more likely to hold immigrants' populations due to its lower-income housing (Hernández et al., 2016). These areas are concentrated in particular neighborhoods within each city. Shaw and Mckay's work focus on the application of social disorganization theory within the limitations of immigration. Both researchers state that most immigrants reside in low-income areas that lack proper social organization. These areas are normally lower-income and thus have higher poverty rates, heterogeneity, and low access to quality education (Shaw and Mckay, 1942; Warner, 2003).

In addition, the researchers showed that there is not a correlation between immigrants and crime but rather a correlation between disorganized neighborhoods linked to social class and crime. The main concept is not to show that social class is related to crime, but rather how the disorganization of social ties can increase negative social factors and increase crime. Ferraro notes, "Heterogeneity and instability undermine an area's formal and informal sources of social control, leading over time to increases in crime" (2016, p. 25). One important aspect of social disorganization theory and social ties is collective efficacy, which deals with the organization in neighborhoods (Warner, 2003). Collective efficacy looks at how neighborhood individuals construct the neighborhood's behavior by allowing individuals to understand acceptable behavior. It is similar to society constructing norms for society. When a neighborhood constructs

the behavior, it allows the neighborhood to create an organization micro group that limits crime and increases other social support networks within the community. Residential stability refers to the collective efficiency of a neighborhood-based on cultural and personal organization. Neighborhoods with high residential stability, such as suburban areas, will most likely have less crime because they have developed an organization, which deters crimes.

*Group Threat*

Essentially, the group threat ideology notes that when the population of a minority group rises, then the majority group will fear their loss of control (Blalock, 1970; Blinder and Lundgren, 2019). Majority groups, such as white elitists, fear losing power and resources and thus develop an anti-immigration discourse due to fear (Berg, 2016). Many within the majority group will then implement policies to decrease or stall the growing minority population to remain in control (Blalock, 1967; Major and Kaiser, 2017). Furthermore, this particular perception rises when a higher number of immigrants live near the stereotypical white elitist (Berg, 2016). The group threat perspective explains how society implies a particular threat level to particular groups within society. Furthermore, it shows "that prejudice and inter-group hostility are largely reactions to perceived threats by subordinate groups" (King and Wheelock, 2007). Society has developed a group threat discourse toward immigration. The individual in elite power develops these prejudicial attitudes toward particular groups and thus paints them as a threat to their cultural lifestyle. This is happening in our country because individuals are labeling immigration as a threat to the American way of life, but it does not affect our lives in reality. The individual in elite power develop these prejudicial attitudes toward particular groups and thus paints them as a threat to their cultural lifestyle. Allport (1979) notes a correlation

between positive perceptions of immigrations with an increase in intergroup contact among racial categories.

***Conceptual Framework***

Theoretically, social constructivism provides context to the overall purpose of this study. Social constructionism explains that social issues, such as immigration, arise from the societal understanding of perception (Gradinaru, 2018; Nissen, 2015). Social constructionism indicates that society assigns meanings to certain aspects within society, yet there is a debate on understanding immigration; there is a large majority that opposes it. Furthermore, this theory, which Berger and Luckmann developed, seeks to show how the socially constructed meaning that the participants encompass through their lived experiences and direct meanings of the situation (Berger and Luckmann, 1966). The social construction of reality and the lived experience can change based on certain conflictual issues presented throughout the lifespan (Steets, 2016).

Historically, immigrants, whether documented or undocumented, have been viewed as a burden on the United States economy. They area argued to increase crime within our borders. Social constructionism has created a negative connotation around immigrants, specifically those from Central and South America. Warner has noted that, "social construction of immigrants as 'criminal aliens' is increasing due to what has called the 'criminalization of immigration', which involves the unification of social control of both immigrants and criminals through the integration of deportation with criminal justice system operation" (2003, p. 57). All forms of society have impacted and increased the criminalization of immigration based on the thoughtless claims rooted in social construction. Institutions, such as the media and political bodies, have raised immigration issues, have projected false claims to the public, and created legislation that

negatively impacts immigration. This has influenced a collective consciousness among society members that provides justifications in their personal, negative constructions of immigration.

Social construction provides an explanation to show that people within society are working together to construct societal artifacts. These artifacts form the basis of public opinion of various ideas. Social constructionism notes that these artifacts not only are created through social interactions within a group, but are also apart of, "individual's learning that takes place because of their interactions in a group" (Galbin, 2014). This individual learning is where attitudes are formed based on this theory of social constructionism. In many ways the individual's construction of attitudes is based upon the facts presented during group interactions (Galbin, 2014). Furthermore, the language and discourse used within group interactions can influence constructed attitudes.

Since group interaction influences the construction of attitude, it is important to note how the membership of group interaction influences constructed attitudes. It is known that most individuals associate with those that similar in demographic profiles, thus does this note that many individuals that are similar in demographic profiles have similar attitudes and perspective on issues? In many ways it would be hypothesized that based on social constructionism, those that associate based on the similarity of demographics are most likely to have similar attitudes due to their attitudes forming based on the same interactions that all experience.

Chapter 3

METHODOLOGY

This study was approved in accordance of IRB standards and was approved as an exempt study.

**Research Questions**

The following research questions will guide this study,

Q1: What are southeastern college student's perceptions of undocumented immigration, documented immigration, and naturalized citizens?

Hypothesis 1: Male individuals are more likely to have a higher level of agreement that undocumented immigrants increase crime rates compared to females.

Hypothesis 2: African Americans/Black individuals are more likely to have a lower level of agreement that undocumented immigrants increase crime rates compared to White individuals.

Q2: What are southeastern college students' attitudes of immigration regarding immigration policy?

Hypothesis 3: Male individuals are more likely to have a higher level of agreement that undocumented immigrants should remain in detention centers compared to females

Hypothesis 4: African Americans/Black individuals are more likely to have a lower level of agreement that undocumented immigrants should remain in detention centers compared to White individuals.

Hypothesis 5: Male individuals are more likely to have a lower level of agreement that the United States should decriminalize border crossing from Mexico compared to females.

Hypothesis 6: African American/Black individuals are more likely to have a higher level of agreement that the United States should decriminalize border crossing from Mexico compared to White individuals.

These are broad research questions that were used to guide the study, which lead to the production of hypotheses associated with each research question. The research viewed different aspects of southeastern college students' attitudes on issues within immigration such as immigrant detention and border legalization. Yet, the research questions provided the overarching, generalized statements formed within the study's parameters. The end goal of this study is to understand southeastern college student's attitudes toward immigration. Furthermore, by looking at demographic information the study will attempt to determine if these aspects influence immigrant opinions. Furthermore, the study attempts to see if you can predict certain immigration opinions based on demographic information.

These hypotheses relate to social constructionism based on that knowledge, such as attitudes and values are developed from group interactions in society. Furthermore, most individuals associate with those that are similar in demographic profiles, thus is there a correlation that those of similar demographic profiles and attitude toward immigration. The above hypotheses seek to see if this notion is true, and if we can predict attitudes based on social construction theory under the idea that similar individuals will have similar opinion based on their shared interactions.

**Participant selection and Sampling**

The study used simple random sampling as the sampling method. This sampling method allowed the study to gather a random sample based on the proposed population, and each participant was given an equal chance to be chosen. The target population was students that were

enrolled at southeastern universities within the United States. Students from a southeastern university were chosen to represent as the sample to represent the target population. The sample population is similar in demographic statistics to the sample southeastern university that was used to represent the target population. As an example, the sample population sex distribution was 68% female and 28% male, which is similar to the sample southeastern university that was used to represent the target population, which has a sex distribution of 64% female and 35% male. The sample was also similar in racial background as the sample population was 11% Latinx/Hispanic, 53% White, 25% Black/African American, which is similar to the sample southeastern university where the sample was taken which has a racial breakdown of 8% Latinx/Hispanic, 44% White, 39% Black/African American.

It is important to note that findings are based on one regional university in the southeastern United States. While the target population was students that were enrolled at southeastern universities within the United States, the findings cannot justify all students enrolled at southeastern universities within the United States. Furthermore, the results of one university cannot be used to explain all regional universities in the southeastern United States. Thus, this study makes the disclaimer against unwarranted exploitation in this study.

Students were made aware of the survey that was sent in the student activities blast email. Every student at the southern university could choose to take the survey since it was administered through online software. The sample size for the study was (N=339).

**Survey**

The study used an online survey to examine southeastern college students' attitudes toward immigration issues throughout the United States. The survey was administered through

an online platform named Qualtrics. The survey consisted of different sections that were geared at answering the different research objectives for the study (Appendix A).

The online survey's first section was demographic characteristics that recorded participants' race and ethnicity, sex, parental socioeconomic status, and college classification. The next section of the survey focused on asking questions associated with concerns of documented immigrants, undocumented immigrants, and naturalized citizens. The general concerns looked at economic growth, employment, and feelings of association. The next portion of the online survey recorded feelings toward public policy, such as social welfare programs for immigrants and the efficiency of criminal justice programs created for immigration issues.

The study measures immigration attitudes by the participants' levels of agreement with every section of the survey with a five-point Likert-scale. Examples from the survey include, "Documented immigration causes more of the problems within the United States today than 10 years ago" and "Americans should take a stronger stance to exclude documented immigrants." The statements were ranked on a five-point Likert-scale ranging from 5= Strongly Agree to 1 = Strongly Disagree.

Originally, the survey contained multiple sections related to immigration attitudes, such as policy, victimization, and personal values. Yet, due to the length of the survey only half of the survey results were deemed valid because many surveys were half-way complete. Attrition played a role in deeming the value research, because some section lacked a strong sample size, which if you used would have led to non-conclusive results. Only the sections on documented immigrants, undocumented immigrants, naturalized citizens, and immigration policy were used in the findings of this study, which had a strong sample size (N=339).

Chapter 4

RESULTS

First, descriptive data analysis was conducted in the form of frequency tables and cross-tabulations. The cross-tabulations provided insight into the correlation between different variables (Leon-Guerrero & Frankfort-Nachmias, 2018). The results from the cross-tabulations would later lead to the production of inferential statistics through chi square analysis. Chi square statistics were used to measure inferential data, and to show significance between independent and dependent variables (Leon-Guerrero & Frankfort-Nachmias, 2018).

Table 1: Chi Square Significance Undocumented Immigrants Variables

|  | Race and Ethnicity | Sex | Parental SES | Class Standing |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| More undocumented immigrants | 0.005** | 0.001*** | 0.09 | 0.089 |
| Undocumented immigrants cause more issues | 0.000*** | 0.198 | 0.182 | 0.014** |
| Undocumented immigration makes its hard to stay united | 0.004** | 0.168 | 0.007** | 0.03* |
| Undocumented immigrants increase crime rates | 0.000*** | 0.015** | 0.009** | 0.013** |
| Exclude undocumented immigrants | 0.002** | 0.023* | 0.032* | 0.085 |
| Undocumented immigrants and better jobs | 0.000*** | 0.276 | 0.272 | 0.513 |

0.001***
0.01**
0.05*

Table 1 shows the chi square value of the dependent variables on undocumented immigrants listed in the rows, and the independent variables, which were demographics, in the

columns.  The p-value based on our chi-square approximation, which is noted in the chart based on significance. It is used to indicates the likelihood that the observed differences between the two groups occurred due to random chance (Leon-Guerrero & Frankfort-Nachmias, 2018). Significance is based on $p < 0.05$.  One finding showed that the p-value from the chi square between the independent variable of race and ethnicity was significant with all dependent variables listed in Table 1. The dependent variable, undocumented immigrants increase crime rates, and the race and ethnicity independent variable have a significance level of 0.000, which displays a strong level of significance between the two variables. Based on the p-value there is 0% likelihood that the observed results occurred due to random chance. Furthermore, the dependent variable, undocumented immigrants cause more issues, and the race and ethnicity independent variable have a significance level of 0.000, which displays a strong level of significance between these two variables. Based on the p-value there is 0% likelihood that the observed results occurred due to random chance. Another finding is noted between sex, the independent variable, and more undocumented immigrants, the dependent variable which also held significance. These variables had a p-value of 0.001, which displays a strong level of significance between the two variables.  Based on the p-value there is 0.01% likelihood that the observed results occurred due to random chance.

Table 2: Chi Square Significance Criminal Justice Policy Variables

|  | Race and Ethnicity | Sex | Parental SES | Class Standing |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Southern border issue | 0.005** | 0.044* | 0.627 | 0.165 |
| Decriminalize border crossings | 0.018* | 0.000*** | 0.622 | 0.023* |
| Build border wall | 0.007** | 0.145 | 0.3 | 0.003** |
| Border wall and crime | 0.143 | 0.218 | 0.965 | 0.016* |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Detention centers are inhumane | 0.005** | 0.000*** | 0.357 | 0.085 |
| Detention centers are effective | 0.051* | 0.067 | 0.079 | 0.032* |
| Remain in detention centers | 0.046* | 0.001*** | 0.485 | 0.125 |
| Release from detention centers | 0.25 | 0.000*** | 0.365 | 0.055 |
| Due process | 0.101 | 0.005** | 0.635 | 0.002** |
| Effective counsel | 0.038* | 0.015* | 0.740 | 0.119 |
| ICE effective policies | 0.109 | 0.514 | 0.544 | 0.004** |
| ICE immigrant reduction | 0.386 | 0.191 | 0.524 | 0.217 |
| Increase in ICE agents | 0.325 | 0.015* | 0.747 | 0.513 |

0.001***

0.01**

0.05*

Table 2 shows the chi square value of the dependent variables on immigration policy

listed in the rows, and the independent variables, which were demographics, in the columns.

Significance is based on $p < 0.05$. The dependent variable decriminalizes border crossing, and

the sex independent variable have a significance level of 0.000, which displays a strong level of

significance between the two variables. Based on the p-value there is 0% likelihood that the

observed results occurred due to random chance. Findings between sex and other dependent

variables, such as detention centers are inhumane and release from detention centers displayed

similar results due to their p-value being 0.000. Furthermore, the dependent variable, immigrants

should remain in detention center, and the sex independent variable have a significance level of

0.001, which displays a strong level of significance between these two variables. Based on the p-

value there is 0.1% likelihood that the observed results occurred due to random chance. Another

finding is noted between class standing, the independent variable, and ICE effective policies and

build a border wall, the dependent variable which also held significance. These variables had a p-

value of 0.004 and 0.003, which displays a strong level of significance between the two variables.  Based on the p-value there is 0.4% and 0.03% likelihood that the observed results occurred due to random chance.

Another form of data analysis that was conducted was ordinal regression. Ordinal regression was used based on the Likert scale questions that were used in the survey. Ordinal regression was used to predict an ordinal dependent variable given the independent variable (Long and Freese, 2006).  The first dependent variable that was used in the ordinal regression tests was undocumented immigrants increase crime rates.  Reference categories for the first test were white, female, freshman, and SES_100K_plus. Table 3 notes the ordinal regression results with undocumented immigrants increase crime rates and independent variables Sex and Race/Ethnicity.

Table 3: Ordered Logistic Regression UIcrimerates

| UIcrimerates | Odds Ratio | Std. Error | z | P>|z| | 95% Conf. Interval | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male | 2.724 | 0.704 | 3.88 | 0.000 | 1.642 | 4.52 |
| Intersex | 1.679 | 1.534 | 0.57 | 0.571 | 0.28 | 10.06 |
| Sophomore | 0.743 | 0.313 | -0.70 | 0.481 | 0.326 | 1.695 |
| Junior | 0.471 | 0.187 | -1.89 | 0.058 | 0.215 | 1.027 |
| Senior | 0.362 | 0.132 | -2.79 | 0.005 | 0.177 | 0.74 |
| Graduate Student | 0.402 | 0.143 | -2.55 | 0.011 | 0.2 | 0.809 |
| SES less than 20k | 0.798 | 0.323 | -0.56 | 0.578 | 0.361 | 1.763 |
| SES 20K-35K | 0.47 | 0.206 | -1.72 | 0.085 | 0.199 | 1.111 |
| SES 35k-50k | 0.461 | 0.165 | -2.16 | 0.031 | 0.229 | 0.930 |
| SES 50k-75k | 0.715 | 0.243 | -0.99 | 0.324 | 0.367 | 1.392 |
| SES 75k-100k | 0.695 | 0.278 | -0.91 | 0.363 | 0.317 | 1.523 |
| Black | 0.33 | 0.091 | -4.01 | 0.000 | 0.192 | 0.568 |
| Latinx | 0.423 | 0.172 | -2.12 | 0.034 | 0.19 | 0.939 |
| Other | 0.355 | 0.159 | -2.30 | 0.021 | 0.147 | 0.857 |

*Note: reference categories are female, freshman, parental income over $100,000, and White
Significance noted by: p< 0.001***; 0.01**; 0.05*

From these table 3, by taking the odds ratio minus 1, the percentage of odds can be calculated from the ordered logistic regression model (Long and Freese, 2006). In the first

variable male, it shows that a student that is male has a 172.4% higher odds of being in a higher category compared to female students (p < 0.000). Thus, males are more likely to agree with the measured dependent variable statement. Furthermore, a student that is African American/Black has 67% lower odds of being in a higher category compared to white students (p < 0.000). After ordinal regression models were ran, predicted probabilities were used to show exactly what categories participants lie in. Thus, African Americans/blacks are more likely to disagree with statement measured by the dependent variable.

Table 4: Predicted Probability of UI cause crime

| outcome | | white female | white male | black female | black male |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|
| SA | 5 | 7.14 | 17.32 | 2.48 | 6.48 |
| A | 4 | 14.01 | 24.9 | 5.67 | 12.98 |
| N | 3 | 34.91 | 34.43 | 21.52 | 34 |
| D | 2 | 21.06 | 12.53 | 23.04 | 21.76 |
| SD | 1 | 22.88 | 9.82 | 47.3 | 24.78 |

Table 6 notes the predicted probability of the dependent variable of undocumented immigrants cause crime rates. It should be noted that black females have stronger levels of disagreement in comparison to any other group measured in the table with 47.3 % strongly disagreeing with the statement. Furthermore, white males are the most likely to have stronger levels of agreement with the statement, which 17.32% of white males strongly agreeing with statement and 24.9% of white males agreeing with statement.

Table 5: Ordered Logistic Regression UIdetentioncenter

| UIdetentioncenter | Odds Ratio | Std. Error | z | P>\|z\| | 95% Conf. Interval | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male | 2.69 | 0.738 | 3.60 | 0.000 | 1.57 | 4.606 |
| Intersex | 3.994 | 4.346 | 1.27 | 0.203 | 0.473 | 33.698 |
| Sophomore | 0.466 | 0.211 | -1.69 | 0.092 | 0.192 | 1.132 |
| Junior | 0.298 | 0.125 | -2.87 | 0.004 | 0.13 | 0.681 |
| Senior | 0.279 | 0.109 | -3.24 | 0.001 | 0.129 | 0.604 |
| Graduate Student | 0.349 | 0.132 | -2.77 | 0.006 | 0.166 | 0.735 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SES less than 20k | 0.702 | 0.318 | -0.78 | 0.435 | 0.289 | 1.705 |
| SES 20K-35K | 0.674 | 0.325 | -0.82 | 0.414 | 0.262 | 1.736 |
| SES 35k-50k | 0.611 | 0.242 | -1.24 | 0.213 | 0.281 | 1.327 |
| SES 50k-75k | 1.069 | 0.399 | 0.18 | 0.859 | 0.514 | 2.22 |
| SES 75k-100k | 0.928 | 0.419 | -0.17 | 0.868 | 0.383 | 2.246 |
| Black | 0.369 | 0.111 | -3.31 | 0.001 | 0.204 | 0.666 |
| Latinx | 0.652 | 0.266 | -1.05 | 0.294 | 0.293 | 1.45 |
| Other Race | 0.528 | 0.276 | -1.22 | 0.222 | 0.19 | 1.47 |

*Note: reference categories are female, freshman, parental income over $100,000, and White
Significance noted by: p< 0.001***; 0.01**; 0.05*

Compared to female students, males have a 168.9% higher odds of being in a higher category (p < 0.000). Based on this males are more likely to agree with the dependent variable statement, which is undocumented immigrants should remain in detention centers. Furthermore, a student that is African American/Black has a 63.2% lower odds of being in a higher category compared to white students (p < 0.000). From this African Americas/blacks are more likely to disagree with statement studied in the dependent variable.

Table 6: Predicted Probability of UIdetentioncenters

| outcome | white female | | white male | black female | black male |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SA | 5 | 4 | 10.07 | 1.51 | 3.97 |
| A | 4 | 7.63 | 16.07 | 3.11 | 7.58 |
| N | 3 | 14.96 | 23.21 | 7.16 | 14.89 |
| D | 2 | 35.92 | 32.42 | 26.3 | 35.89 |
| SD | 1 | 37.48 | 18.23 | 61.91 | 37.67 |

From the predicted probability, black females are the category that are most likely to disagree with the statement that undocumented immigrants with 61.91% of them strongly disagreeing with the statement. Furthermore, white females are close behind with 37.48% and 35.92% strongly disagreeing and disagreeing with the statement. White males are most likely to agree with statements with 10.07% strongly agreeing and 16.07% agreeing.

Table 7: Ordered Logistic Regression Bordercrossing

| Bordercrossing | Odds Ratio | Std. Error | z | P>\|z\| | 95% Conf. Interval | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male | 0.327 | 0.092 | -3.97 | 0.000 | 0.188 | 0.568 |
| Intersex | 0.278 | 0.266 | -1.34 | 0.180 | 0.043 | 1.81 |
| Sophomore | 0.863 | 0.371 | -0.34 | 0.733 | 0.371 | 2.007 |
| Junior | 1.049 | 0.424 | 0.12 | 0.907 | 0.474 | 2.319 |
| Senior | 1.31 | 0.48 | 0.74 | 0.461 | 0.638 | 2.687 |
| Graduate Student | 1.663 | 0.611 | 1.38 | 0.167 | 0.809 | 3.419 |
| SES less than 20k | 1.134 | 0.481 | 0.3 | 0.766 | 0.494 | 2.604 |
| SES 20K-35K | 1.166 | 0.524 | 0.34 | 0.731 | 0.483 | 2.816 |
| SES 35k-50k | 0.767 | 0.293 | -0.69 | 0.488 | 0.361 | 1.625 |
| SES 50k-75k | 0.672 | 0.243 | -1.1 | 0.272 | 0.3661 | 1.365 |
| SES 75k-100k | 0.912 | 0.403 | -1.21 | 0.835 | 0.330 | 2.17 |
| Black | 2.793 | 0.811 | 3.54 | 0.000 | 1.58 | 4.935 |
| Latinx | 1.735 | 0.688 | 1.3 | 0.165 | 0.797 | 3.773 |
| Other | 2.25 | 1.05 | 1.74 | 0.081 | 0.904 | 5.598 |

*Note: reference categories are female, freshman, parental income over $100,000, and White
Significance noted by: p< 0.001***; 0.01**; 0.05*

Compared to female students, males have a 67.3% lower odds of being in a higher category (p < 0.000). Based on this males are more likely to disagree with the dependent variable statement, which is undocumented immigrants should remain in detention centers. Furthermore, a student that is African American/Black has a 179.3% higher odds of being in a higher category compared to white students (p < 0.000). From this African Americas/blacks are more likely to agree with statement studied in the dependent variable.

Table 8: Predicted Probability of Legalize border crossing

| outcome | white female | white male | black female | black male |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SA | 5 | 16.2 | 5.94 | 35.06 | 14.99 |
| A | 4 | 17.43 | 8.26 | 23.54 | 16.62 |
| N | 3 | 29.19 | 21.33 | 23.9 | 29 |
| D | 2 | 20.77 | 26.87 | 10.92 | 21.63 |
| SD | 1 | 16.45 | 37.59 | 6.58 | 17.74 |

From the predicted probability, black females are most likely to agree with the statement noting that 35.06% of black females strongly agree with statement and 23.54% agree with

statement. Furthermore, in comparison between white females and white males, white females had higher levels of agreement in comparison to white males with 16.2 % of white females strongly agreeing and only 5.94% of white males strongly agreeing with the statement. Even black males had higher rates of agreement with the statement in comparison to white males, with 14.99% compared to 5.94% strongly agreeing with the statement.

Chapter 5

DISCUSSION

The first research question had two hypotheses that were being addressed in this study. In the findings of hypothesis #1, the null hypothesis is rejected in favor of the alternative hypothesis. The p-value among the independent variable of sex and the dependent variable of undocumented immigrants cause more crime had a significance of 0.000. Furthermore, the ordinal regression noted that males are more likely to agree that undocumented immigrants cause more crime. Lastly, the predicted probabilities showed that males, in general, both white and black were more likely to agree with the dependent, yet white males have the strongest level of agreement. In the findings of hypothesis #2, the null hypothesis is rejected in favor of the alternative hypothesis. The p-value among the independent variable of race/ethnicity and the dependent variable of undocumented immigrants cause more crime had a significance of 0.000. Furthermore, the ordinal regression noted that white individuals are more likely to agree that undocumented immigrants cause more crime. Lastly, the predicted probabilities showed that white individuals are more likely to have a higher level of agreement in comparison to black individuals.

The second research question had four hypotheses that were being addressed in this study. In the findings of hypothesis #3, the null hypothesis is rejected in favor of the alternative hypothesis. The p-value among the independent variable of sex and the dependent variable of undocumented immigrants should remain in detention centers had a significance of 0.000. Furthermore, the ordinal regression noted that male individuals are more likely to agree that undocumented immigrants should remain in detention centers. Lastly, the predicted probabilities showed that male individuals are more likely to have a higher level of agreement in comparison

to female individuals. In the findings of hypothesis #4, the null hypothesis is rejected in favor of the alternative hypothesis. The p-value among the independent variable of race/ethnicity and the dependent variable of undocumented immigrants should remain in detention centers had a significance of 0.000. Furthermore, the ordinal regression noted that white individuals are more likely to agree that undocumented immigrants should remain in detention centers. Lastly, the predicted probabilities showed that white individuals are more likely to have a higher level of agreement in comparison to black individuals. In the findings of hypothesis #5, the null hypothesis is rejected in favor of the alternative hypothesis. The p-value among the independent variable of sex and the dependent variable of the United States should legalize border crossing from Mexico had a significance of 0.000. Furthermore, the ordinal regression noted that male individuals are more likely to disagree that the United States should legalize border crossing from Mexico. Lastly, the predicted probabilities showed that male individuals are more likely to have a lower level of agreement in comparison to female individuals. Lastly, in the findings of hypothesis #6, the null hypothesis is rejected in favor of the alternative hypothesis. The p-value among the independent variable of race/ethnicity and the dependent variable of the United States should legalize border crossing from Mexico had a significance of 0.000. Furthermore, the ordinal regression noted that white individuals are more likely to disagree that the United States should legalize border crossing from Mexico. Lastly, the predicted probabilities showed that white individuals are more likely to have a lower level of agreement in comparison to black individuals.

Another finding displays the significance of non-significance between variables. From the results, findings on the correlation and predictability between the demographics, parental socioeconomic status and class standing, were measured in congruency with the independent

variables. One perceived pre-research thought was that there would be some correlation between class standing and the acceptability of immigration. As an example, it was perceived that as class standing increase then there would be an increase in the acceptability of immigration as well. Based on the results, there is a low correlation between the dependent variable of class standing and the measured independent variables. The same findings of significance of non-significance were found between parental socioeconomic status and the measured independent variables.

**Future Directions and Limitations**

One of the largest limitations that impacted this study was COVID-19. This resulted in a lack of resources that would normally have been used in the study. Specifically, data analysis tools were limited, which impact some of the findings within the study. Based on this, another limitation was finding survey respondents. The sample population was college students at southeastern universities, so it was difficult to find respondents, because many were transition to e-learning and not concerned with survey and research. The sample size is small, which could have impacted some of the findings; overall, the tests display validity among the results. However, during COVID-19, it was hard finding participants that would complete the survey. Without COVID-19, it was predicted that the study would have a large sample size which would improve the validity of the results.

In terms of future directions, the main concern would be expanding on the data. Originally, the study was geared toward more issues than is listed in the study, yet they were not complete due to some of the limitations. The limitations addressed above influenced the participant respondent rate and the completion of surveys. In the data collection process, many surveys were returned half complete, or with lots of missing information. This limited the scope of useable data for the study. One area in specific was immigration crime and victimization,

which had an extremely low respondent rate on the survey, which made the data that was

collected insufficient.  In the future, the study could expand by looking at opinions geared

toward immigration and crime and victimization rates from respondents. One way to address this

future idea is to readdress questions in the crime and victimization portion of the survey. Lastly,

the inclusion of additional regional southeastern universities is considered as a method to

increase the validity of the findings.

Chapter 6

CONCLUSION

Overall, the purpose of this study was to seek to understand southeastern college student's attitudes within immigration within the United States. The first area of public attitudes included in the study was the opinions regarding undocumented immigrants, documented immigrants, and naturalized citizens. Furthermore, the research examined immigration policy within multiple fields, such as the criminal justice system. The literature review formed the foundation background, and sought to explain issues regarding immigration policy, deportations, and immigration and crime. In many ways this study provides a contribution to literature based on the gap of knowledge associated with the understanding of southeastern college student's attitudes toward immigration.

The study noted and answered each research question that guided the study. For research question 1, the study noted different attitudes regarding different forms of immigration, noted as documented, undocumented, and naturalized citizens. Overall, the finding suggested to support the hypothesis developed under research question 1. First, the study supported that male individuals are more likely to have a higher level of agreement that undocumented immigrants increase crime rates compared to females. Secondly, the study supported that African Americans/black individuals are more likely to have a lower level  of agreement that undocumented immigrants increase crime rates compared to white individuals.

Furthermore, for research question 2, the study noted different ideas concerning immigration policy within the criminal justice system. Overall, the finding suggested to support the hypothesis developed under research question 2. First the study supported the idea that male individuals are more likely to have a higher level of agreement that undocumented immigrants

should remain in detention centers compared to females. Furthermore, it found that African Americans/black individuals are more likely to have a lower level of agreement that undocumented immigrants should remain in detention centers compared to white individuals. The study also supported the hypotheses that male individuals are more likely to have a lower level of agreement that the United States should decriminalize border crossing from Mexico compared to females and that African American/black individuals are more likely to have a higher level of agreement that the United States should decriminalize border crossing from Mexico compared to white individuals. From these findings the study was able to understand some of southeastern college student's attitudes toward immigration within the United States.

Lastly, the findings suggest support to the theoretical framework that was used to establish this study. First, social construction notes that knowledge, such as the attitude and values we hold, are based on the interactions within the world. Many of these interactions occur within different group dynamics. Furthermore, it is noted that in relation to group dynamics, individuals associated with those that are similar to them in terms of demographics, such as women are more likely to associate with other women. Based on social constructionism, it was questioned can this theory be used to answer, do many individuals that are similar in demographic profiles have similar attitudes and perspective on issues, such as immigration? In some ways the findings of the study support this idea. Many of those with similar demographic profiles had similar responses to survey questions. As an example, there was a strong percentage of white men that agreed that undocumented immigrants increase crime. Furthermore, the findings could be applied to note that a strong percentage of black women support the decriminalization of border crossing. The findings note that social constructionism can be used to

determine that those with similar demographic profiles are going to have similar attitudes with some of the influence stemming from group interactions among themselves.

While the debate of immigration is not going away soon, this study provides some context to understanding the current reflection of attitudes of southeastern college student on immigration. It is hoped that these findings can be used positively to suggest solutions to the current debate of immigration, and these opinions can provide context to the attitudes toward immigration.

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Appendix A: Survey

Thesis survey

Directions: Your participation is completely voluntary, and your answers will remain anonymous. This is NOT a test, so there are no right or wrong answers. Please do your best to answer these questions as honestly as possible. Refrain from suppressing or exaggerating information. If you feel you do not want to answer a question or that it may not apply to you feel free to leave the question in the blank. The first questions will be used to code the information provided by you, please DO NOT write your name on any part of the questionnaire.

**Demographics**

*Answer the following demographic information based on what best fits your identity.*

Ethnicity/Race

Latinx/ Hispanic          White          Black/African American          Asian

Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian          American Indian          Other

Sex

Male     Female          Other

Socioeconomic status of your parents

Less than $20,000          $20,000 to $34,999     $35,000 to $49,999          $35,000 to $49,999

$50,000 to $74,999     $75,000 to $99,999     Over $100,000

Classification

Freshman          Sophomore          Junior          Senior          Graduate Student

*How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding documented immigrants? Circle the number that best describes your level of agreement.*

1= Strongly agree          2=Agree          3=Neutral          4=Disagree          5=Strongly disagree

The United States should allow more documented immigrants into the United States.

                                        1          2          3          4          5

Documented immigration causes more of the problems within the United States today than 10 years ago

1        2        3        4        5

An increase in documented immigration will make it difficult to keep the United States united

1        2        3        4        5

Documented immigrants increase crime rates.

1        2        3        4        5

Documented immigration increases economic growth.

1        2        3        4        5

Americans should take a stronger stance to exclude documented immigrants.

1        2        3        4        5

Documented immigrants steal American jobs.

1        2        3        4        5


*How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding undocumented immigration? Circle the number that best describes your level of agreement*

1= Strongly agree        2=Agree        3=Neutral        4=Disagree        5=Strongly disagree


The United States should allow more undocumented immigrants into the United States.

1        2        3        4        5

Undocumented immigration causes more of the problems within the United States today than 10 years ago

1        2        3        4        5

An increase in undocumented immigration will make it difficult to keep the United States united

1        2        3        4        5

Undocumented immigrants increase crime rates

1        2        3        4        5

Undocumented immigration increases economic growth

1        2        3        4        5

Americans should take a stronger stance to exclude undocumented immigrants

1        2        3        4        5

There should be a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants

$$1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5$$

Undocumented immigrants steal American jobs

$$1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5$$

Undocumented immigrants migrate to the United States to achieve economic mobility

$$1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5$$

Undocumented immigrants migrate to the United States to achieve better employment

$$1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5$$

Undocumented immigrants migrate to the United States to escape violence

$$1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5$$

Undocumented immigrants migrate to the United States to be safe

$$1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5$$

*How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding naturalized immigrants? Circle the number that best describes your level of agreement.*

1= Strongly agree     2=Agree     3=Neutral     4=Disagree     5=Strongly disagree


Naturalized immigration causes more of the problems within the United States today than 10 years ago

$$1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5$$

An increase in naturalized immigration will make it difficult to keep the United States united

$$1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5$$

Naturalized immigrants increase crime rates.

$$1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5$$

Naturalized immigration increases economic growth.

$$1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5$$

Americans should take a stronger stance to exclude naturalized immigrants.

$$1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5$$

Naturalized immigrants steal American jobs.

$$1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 4 \quad 5$$


*How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements, regarding immigration policy? Circle the number that best describes your level of agreement.*

1= Strongly agree     2=Agree     3=Neutral     4=Disagree     5=Strongly disagree

There is a major immigration problem at the United States border with Mexico

 1 2 3 4 5

Immigration detention centers are inhumane

 1 2 3 4 5

The United States is effectively handling the immigration detention centers to ensure humane conditions

 1 2 3 4 5

Undocumented immigrants should remain in immigration detention facilities

 1 2 3 4 5

Undocumented immigrants should be allowed release with supervision from immigration detention facilities

 1 2 3 4 5

The United States should decriminalize undocumented border crossings from the Southern border (Mexico)

 1 2 3 4 5

Undocumented immigrants should have access to proper due process in Immigration court hearings

 1 2 3 4 5

Undocumented immigrants should have access to effective counsel in Immigration court hearings

 1 2 3 4 5

**The Immigration Enforcement Agency has effective policies regarding undocumented immigration**

 1 2 3 4 5

**The Immigration Enforcement Agency is effective at reducing undocumented immigration**

 1 2 3 4 5

The United States should hire more border patrol agents

 1 2 3 4 5

Undocumented immigrants that are currently living in the United States should have a path to citizenship

 1 2 3 4 5

Documented immigrants that are currently living in the United States should have a path to citizenship

 1 2 3 4 5

The United States should build a wall along the Southern border (Mexico) to reduce immigration

1     2     3     4     5

If the United States built a wall along the Southern border (Mexico) crime rates would decrease

1     2     3     4     5

Children of undocumented immigrants have caused an excessive burden on the U.S. welfare systems

1     2     3     4     5

Children of documented immigrants have caused an excessive burden on the U.S. welfare systems

1     2     3     4     5

The United States should provide job training for undocumented immigrants

1     2     3     4     5

The United States should provide job training for documented immigrants

1     2     3     4     5

The United States should provide job training for naturalized immigrants

1     2     3     4     5

Undocumented immigrants are employed at low-skilled jobs

1     2     3     4     5

Documented immigrants are employed at low-skilled jobs

1     2     3     4     5

Naturalized immigrants are employed at low-skilled jobs

1     2     3     4     5

The United States should fund undocumented assimilation immigration programs with taxpayer dollars

1     2     3     4     5

The United States should fund documented assimilation immigration programs with taxpayer dollars

1     2     3     4     5

The United States should fund naturalized assimilation immigration programs with taxpayer dollars

1     2     3     4     5

The United States should provide affordable healthcare for undocumented immigrants

1     2     3     4     5

The United States should provide affordable healthcare for documented immigrants

1     2     3     4     5

The United States should provide affordable healthcare for naturalized immigrants

1       2       3       4       5

The United States should aid in educational training for undocumented immigrants

1       2       3       4       5

The United States should aid in education training for documented immigrants

1       2       3       4       5

The United States should aid in education training for naturalized immigrants

1       2       3       4       5