**Factors associated with attitudes toward U.S. immigration, 2004–2016**

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(http://www.ernestoamaral.com/drafts.html)

## Objective

This paper aims to investigate current individual and contextual characteristics related to attitudes toward immigration in the United States.

## Data and methods

Analysis based on the 2004–2016 General Social Survey (GSS). The dependent variable indicates opinion about how should the number of immigrants to America be nowadays: (1) reduced a lot; (2) reduced a little; (3) remain the same; (4) increased a little; (5) increased a lot. Generalized ordered logit models estimate associations between immigration attitude with several independent variables.

## Results

**– Time.** Our overall results suggest that support to immigration has been increasing over time.

**– Sex.** There is no difference by sex on attitudes toward immigration.

**– Race/ethnicity.** Non-whites (blacks, Hispanic, and others) are more likely to be in favor of an increase on the number of immigrants than whites.

**– Age.** The youngest age group (18–24) has the highest likelihood to want an increase on immigration.

**– Education.** People without a high school degree, with a Bachelor's degree, or with a graduate degree are more likely to support immigration, compared to those with a high school degree.

**– Occupation.** People working on service, sales, office, natural resources, construction, maintenance, production, transportation, material moving, and military occupations are less likely to support immigration, in comparison to people in management, business, science, and arts occupations.

**– Political party.** People self-identified as strong Democrats, Independents near Democrats, and those in other parties are more likely to be in favor of an increase on the number of immigrants, compared to Democrats. Independents near Republicans, Republicans, and strong Republicans have the lowest chances to support immigration.

**– Region.** People living in the South Atlantic region are the least likely to support immigration increase.

**– Area at age 16.** People who lived in areas at the age of 16 that tend to have higher proportions of foreign-born individuals (foreign countries and U.S. big cities) are more likely to support immigration.

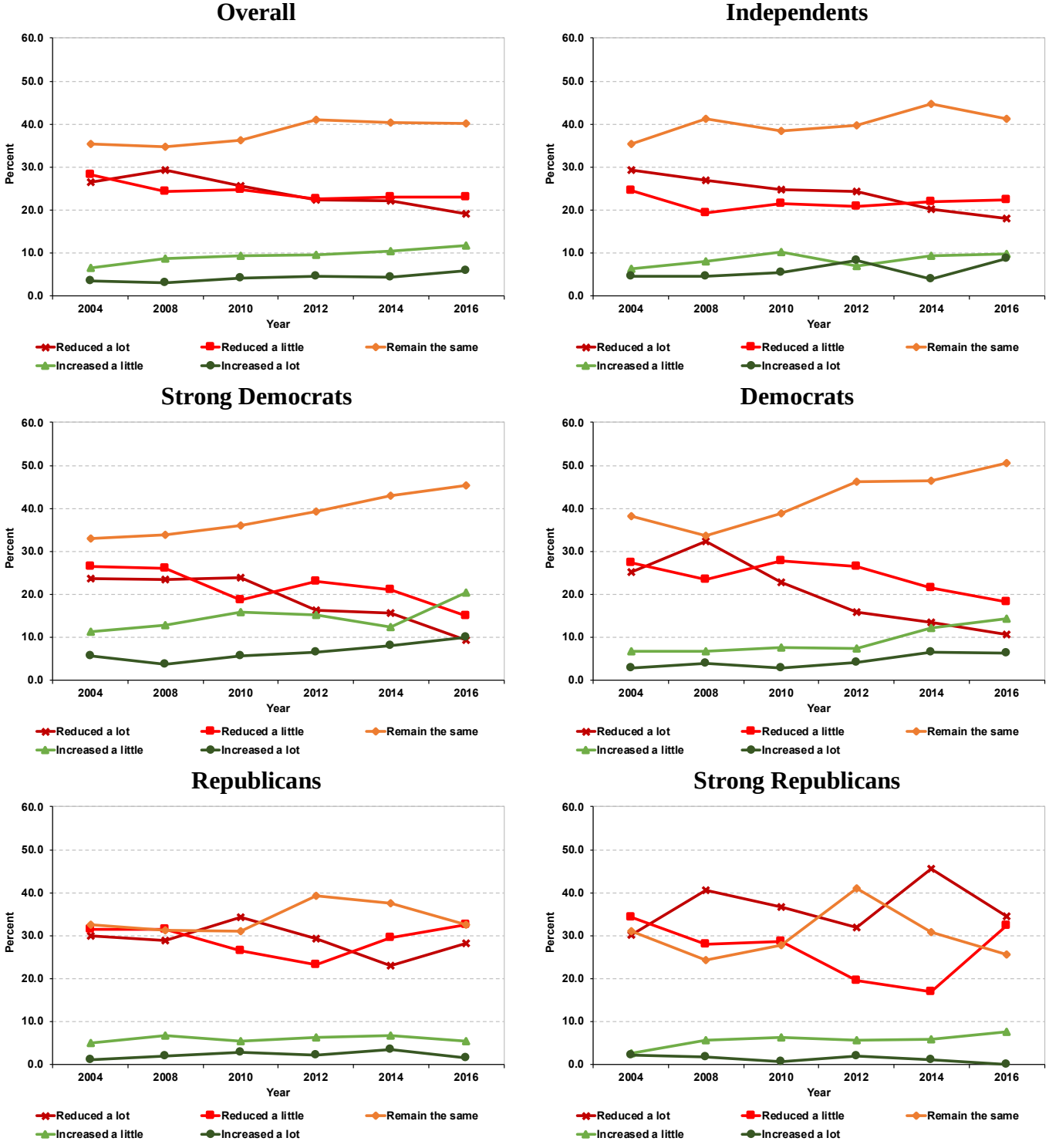
## Contribution

– Several years of data from 2004 to 2016, which captures context of the presidential election.
– Enhance previous estimations by exploring disaggregated information on independent variables.

## Future analysis

Our upcoming analysis will include county-level variables from 2004–2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates. This data allows us to control regression estimates for socioeconomic, demographic, and health information of American localities. Explore other dependent variables.

**Figure 1. Distribution of adult population by opinion about how should the number of immigrants to America be nowadays by political party affiliation, United States, 2004–2016**




Source: 2004, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016 General Social Surveys (GSS).

**Table 1. Odds ratios from generalized ordered logit models predicting opinion about how should the number of immigrants to America be nowadays, United States, 2004–2016**

| Independent variables | Model 1 | | | | Model 2 (add region of interview & area at age 16) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Above reduced a lot | Above reduced a little | Above remain the same | Above increased a little | Above reduced a lot | Above reduced a little | Above remain the same | Above increased a little |
| **Year** | | | | | | | | |
| 2004 | ref. | | | | ref. | | | |
| 2008 | 0.947 | | | | 0.939 | | | |
| | (0.078) | | | | (0.076) | | | |
| 2010 | 1.095 | | | | 1.080 | | | |
| | (0.093) | | | | (0.091) | | | |
| 2012 | 1.231** | | | | 1.216** | | | |
| | (0.107) | | | | (0.106) | | | |
| 2014 | 1.273*** | | | | 1.247*** | | | |
| | (0.102) | | | | (0.101) | | | |
| 2016 | 1.561*** | | | | 1.544*** | | | |
| | (0.120) | | | | (0.117) | | | |
| **Sex** | | | | | | | | |
| Female | ref. | | | | ref. | | | |
| Male | 1.064 | | | | 1.064 | | | |
| | (0.050) | | | | (0.050) | | | |
| **Race/ethnicity** | | | | | | | | |
| White | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. |
| Black | 1.339*** | 1.321*** | 1.440*** | 2.409*** | 1.419*** | 1.368*** | 1.434*** | 2.293*** |
| | (0.128) | (0.103) | (0.166) | (0.411) | (0.136) | (0.108) | (0.162) | (0.428) |
| Hispanic | 2.874*** | 2.797*** | 2.090*** | 3.554*** | 2.064*** | 2.081*** | 1.664*** | 3.014*** |
| | (0.370) | (0.257) | (0.217) | (0.544) | (0.278) | (0.200) | (0.194) | (0.555) |
| Other | 3.016*** | 2.881*** | 1.851*** | 3.238*** | 1.985*** | 2.096*** | 1.423** | 2.779*** |
| | (0.573) | (0.415) | (0.296) | (0.700) | (0.383) | (0.325) | (0.230) | (0.606) |
| **Age group** | | | | | | | | |
| 18-24 | 1.579*** | 1.189* | 1.284** | 0.908 | 1.633*** | 1.253** | 1.376*** | 0.956 |
| | (0.179) | (0.113) | (0.133) | (0.171) | (0.187) | (0.120) | (0.144) | (0.182) |
| 25-44 | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. |
| 45-64 | 0.763*** | | | | 0.761*** | | | |
| | (0.042) | | | | (0.042) | | | |
| 65-89 | 0.821*** | | | | 0.841** | | | |
| | (0.055) | | | | (0.057) | | | |
| **Education degree** | | | | | | | | |
| Less than high school | 0.754*** | 0.910 | 1.483*** | 1.794*** | 0.721*** | 0.849** | 1.436*** | 1.744*** |
| | (0.062) | (0.070) | (0.163) | (0.280) | (0.060) | (0.067) | (0.163) | (0.285) |
| High school | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. |
| Junior college | 1.062 | | | | 1.077 | | | |
| | (0.089) | | | | (0.091) | | | |
| Bachelor | 2.234*** | 1.745*** | 1.663*** | 1.124 | 2.100*** | 1.656*** | 1.598*** | 1.055 |
| | (0.207) | (0.131) | (0.158) | (0.185) | (0.193) | (0.125) | (0.154) | (0.175) |
| Graduate | 2.566*** | 2.332*** | 2.503*** | 1.509** | 2.397*** | 2.164*** | 2.354*** | 1.393* |
| | (0.329) | (0.221) | (0.299) | (0.287) | (0.312) | (0.209) | (0.286) | (0.268) |
| **Occupation** | | | | | | | | |
| Management, business, science, arts | ref. | | | | ref. | | | |
| Service | 0.888 | | | | 0.880* | | | |
| | (0.068) | | | | (0.068) | | | |
| Sales, office | 0.787*** | | | | 0.790*** | | | |
| | (0.050) | | | | (0.052) | | | |
| Natural resources, construction, maint. | 0.696*** | | | | 0.702*** | | | |
| | (0.067) | | | | (0.067) | | | |
| Production, transp., material moving | 0.844** | | | | 0.850* | | | |
| | (0.070) | | | | (0.072) | | | |
| Military | 0.658* | | | | 0.659* | | | |
| | (0.153) | | | | (0.151) | | | |
| Unspecified | 1.052 | | | | 1.037 | | | |
| | (0.285) | | | | (0.272) | | | |
| Unemployed | 0.929 | | | | 0.922 | | | |
| | (0.124) | | | | (0.124) | | | |

(continue)

| Independent variables | Model 1 | | | | Model 2 (add region of interview & area at age 16) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Above reduced a lot | Above reduced a little | Above remain the same | Above increased a little | Above reduced a lot | Above reduced a little | Above remain the same | Above increased a little |
| **Political party affiliation** | | | | | | | | |
| Strong democrat | 1.199* | 1.273*** | 1.757*** | 1.624*** | 1.204* | 1.271*** | 1.750*** | 1.603*** |
| | (0.117) | (0.104) | (0.182) | (0.215) | (0.120) | (0.106) | (0.183) | (0.216) |
| Democrat | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. |
| Independent near Dem. | 1.258*** | | | | 1.239*** | | | |
| | (0.096) | | | | (0.095) | | | |
| Independent | 1.008 | | | | 0.988 | | | |
| | (0.072) | | | | (0.071) | | | |
| Independent near Rep. | 0.661*** | | | | 0.685*** | | | |
| | (0.060) | | | | (0.063) | | | |
| Republican | 0.660*** | | | | 0.678*** | | | |
| | (0.051) | | | | (0.053) | | | |
| Strong Republican | 0.546*** | | | | 0.564*** | | | |
| | (0.047) | | | | (0.051) | | | |
| Other party | 0.877 | 1.123 | 2.098*** | 1.914** | 0.877 | 1.157 | 2.194*** | 1.833* |
| | (0.175) | (0.208) | (0.537) | (0.626) | (0.173) | (0.212) | (0.545) | (0.601) |
| **Region of interview** | | | | | | | | |
| New England | | | | | 1.430*** | | | |
| | | | | | (0.160) | | | |
| Middle Atlantic | | | | | 1.183* | | | |
| | | | | | (0.113) | | | |
| East North Central | | | | | 1.228*** | | | |
| | | | | | (0.089) | | | |
| West North Central | | | | | 1.269** | | | |
| | | | | | (0.126) | | | |
| South Atlantic | | | | | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. |
| East South Central | | | | | 1.087 | | | |
| | | | | | (0.129) | | | |
| West South Central | | | | | 1.116 | | | |
| | | | | | (0.104) | | | |
| Mountain | | | | | 1.468*** | | | |
| | | | | | (0.143) | | | |
| Pacific | | | | | 1.495*** | 1.212** | 1.070 | 0.878 |
| | | | | | (0.169) | (0.113) | (0.121) | (0.158) |
| **Area of residence at age 16** | | | | | | | | |
| Foreign | | | | | 3.558*** | 2.842*** | 2.118*** | 1.793*** |
| | | | | | (0.591) | (0.320) | (0.265) | (0.330) |
| Country, non-farm | | | | | 0.882 | | | |
| | | | | | (0.070) | | | |
| Farm | | | | | 0.825** | | | |
| | | | | | (0.077) | | | |
| Town: < 50,000 | | | | | ref. | ref. | ref. | ref. |
| City: 50,000 to 250,000 | | | | | 1.139* | | | |
| | | | | | (0.082) | | | |
| Big-city suburb | | | | | 1.163** | | | |
| | | | | | (0.085) | | | |
| City: > 250,000 | | | | | 0.915 | 1.051 | 1.274** | 1.447** |
| | | | | | (0.086) | (0.086) | (0.140) | (0.257) |
| Constant | 2.651*** | 0.832** | 0.094*** | 0.023*** | 2.174*** | 0.680*** | 0.075*** | 0.019*** |
| | (0.243) | (0.075) | (0.010) | (0.003) | (0.240) | (0.075) | (0.009) | (0.003) |
| Observations | 9,298 | | | | 9,298 | | | |

Notes: *** Significant at p<0.01, ** Significant at p<0.05, * Significant at p<0.1. Exponential of standard errors reported in parentheses. Empty cells denote that estimated coefficients are similar across categories of dependent variable (i.e. categories of independent variables do not violate the proportional odds/parallel lines assumption).
Source: 2004, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016 General Social Surveys (GSS).