

What do you want your audience to know about your project?

How much background is needed?

How can you effectively present the analysis **in words** and **visually**?

How does each part of the poster contribute to the whole picture?

# Identifying as an American: Acculturation in First-generation Latino/a and Hispanic Immigrants

Cara B. Borja  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County



## ABSTRACT

- ❖ People of Hispanic origin constitute the largest minority group in the nation, with 35 percent of Hispanics being immigrants.
- ❖ First-generation immigrants face challenges related to adapting to and adopting American values, beliefs, and traditions.
- ❖ The purpose of this study is to identify the barriers and facilitators to first-generation Latino/a and Hispanic immigrants' identification with the larger American community.

## INTRODUCTION

### What is acculturation?

- ❖ Acculturation is the impact of peoples, groups, and/or communities on changes in practices, cultural values, and identifications from exposure to different cultures.

- ❖ Two components of acculturation are behavioral and psychological:

- Behavioral: How much one participates in the activities of either culture.  
- Ex: Social Activities, Foods, Language
- Psychological: How much an individual identifies with either culture.  
- Ex: Values, Attitudes, Identity

### Why study acculturation?

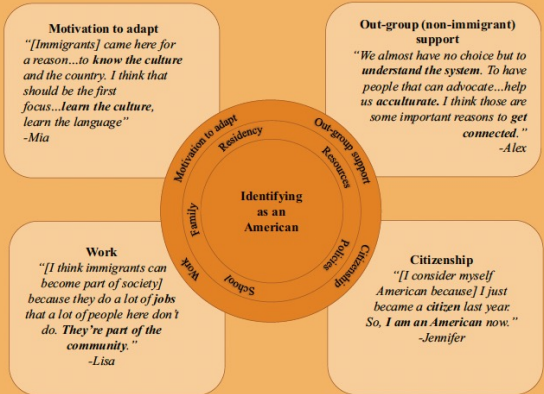
- ❖ As of 2014, there are 42.4 million immigrants in the U.S. who face challenges related to acculturation
- ❖ Individuals who experience "culture shock" or "acculturative stress" are prone to mental diseases and cognitive vulnerabilities, such as depression or anxiety
- ❖ Research has shown that individuals who adapt to their country of residence have both psychologically and physiologically better outcomes

## METHOD

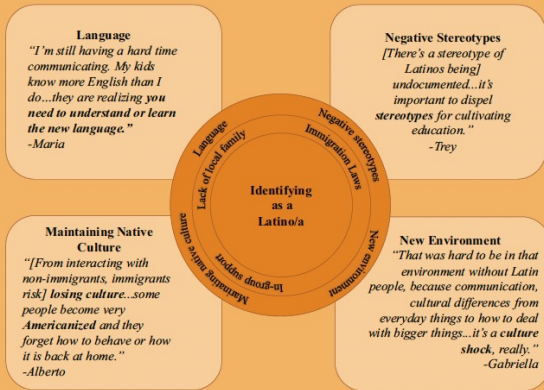
- ❖ The study is based on the analysis of 15 semi-structured interviews with first-generation Latino/a and Hispanic immigrants living in the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. area.
- ❖ Data was coded into ATLAS.ti, a qualitative data analysis and research software.
- ❖ Using grounded theory approach, subcodes were created within superordinate codes to analyze data pertaining to acculturation and identification.

## RESULTS

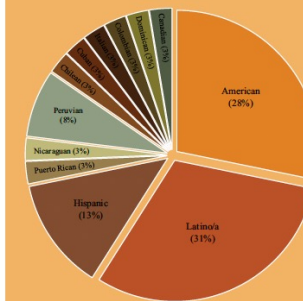
### Acculturation Facilitators



### Acculturation Barriers



Self-Identification of 15 First-generation Latino/a and Hispanic Immigrants



## DISCUSSION

- ❖ The most common facilitators of acculturation, leading participants to identify as American were: motivation to adapt to U.S. American culture, support from out-group (non-immigrants), U.S. citizenship, and work
- ❖ The most common barriers of acculturation, leading participants to identify as Latino/a were: language, negative stereotypes of native culture, maintaining "roots," and navigating a new environment.
- ❖ Research has shown that immigrants who learn the practices of American culture are able to navigate the U.S. environment
- ❖ This knowledge can be used for communities to better accommodate the needs of Latino/a and Hispanic immigrants, such as providing support groups, English classes, or aids in obtaining U.S. citizenship

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# Race, Class, and Transit Oriented Development

Examining high-income demographic change after light rail transit



Thelonious Goerz | Advisor: Sara Curran | Department of Sociology | Honors Research Symposium

How and where people move have been core questions in urban sociology and poverty research for years. These moves have consequences for wellbeing and social mobility.

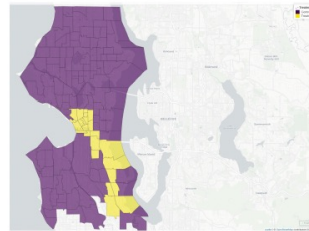
Researchers are interested in the effects of gentrification on mobility patterns in U.S. cities. However, research finds that low-income people *do not* move out of these areas at higher rates. In fact, they are actually far less mobile than previously thought (Freeman 2005). But there are still many unanswered questions about the mechanisms that may move low-income residents from central areas.

Yet, in fast-growing cities like Seattle, historically low-income racial groups are declining significantly in areas with urban reinvestment, leaving unanswered questions about how populations are changing (Hess 2020).

## Light Rail Transit In Seattle: Facts

- Link Light Rail has been in development since 1996.
- Construction began in 2003 and a majority of stations opened in 2009.
- As of 2021 there are 14 stations.
- There are currently north and south expansions in development to 2036.
- In the U.S., LRT is a major policy strategy and in rapid development.

## Light Rail Transit Tracts (Gold) in Seattle.



## Motivation and Hypotheses

As it turns out, transit developments, like Light Rail (LRT), are similar to processes of gentrification (Zuk et al. 2017).

Additionally, one factor that many studies ignore, is the role of income in urban demographic change.

**This study examines the effect of LRT on the racial and income composition of Seattle census tracts.**

**This leads to my overall hypothesis:**

*I argue that middle and high-income groups are the primary forces shifting neighborhood racial composition in LRT neighborhoods because of their capacity to move.*

For detailed reproducible code: Everything to compile this thesis will be hosted at <https://github.com/theloniousgoerz>

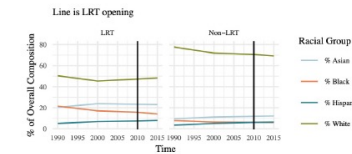


Figure 1: Comparison of Percent of Each Racial Group Over Time in Seattle

## Methods

To estimate the effect of LRT development on racial and income composition:

- Unique dataset of Census American Community Survey data (1990-2015) (N = 540).
- Variables: Income (by Race), demographic indicators, and neighborhood controls.
- Regression framework, that compares both LRT and non-LRT tracts (Difference in Difference).<sup>1</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Model equation:} & Y_{it} = \alpha(LRT)_{it} + \gamma(\text{Time})_{it} + \\ \text{Difference in} & \beta(\text{Density})_{it} + \beta(\text{Pop})_{it} + \beta(\text{Homeowner})_{it} + \\ \text{Difference} & \beta(\text{Rent}_{it}) + \beta(\text{Vacant}_{it}) + \beta(\text{Race}_{it}) + \\ & \beta_{1990} + \beta_{2010} + \beta_{2015} + \epsilon \\ & \epsilon \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2) \end{aligned}$$

## Results

- 5 years after LRT, neighborhoods experience statistically significant 5% increases in White residents, and declining or stagnant non-white groups.
- 5 years after LRT, there is a statistically significant 7% shift in the income distribution tending toward the highest earners.
- Asian and White residents have significant in their respective income distributions equivalent to 7% and 8% to the highest income earners.
- There is no significant change in the income distribution of Black and Hispanic residents.

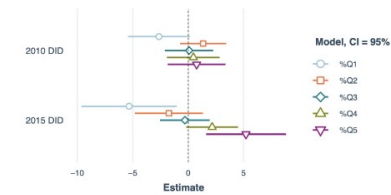


Figure 4: DID estimates of LRT effect on income quintile percent

## Conclusion and Limitations

- Results suggest that Income patterns are consistent with hypotheses that high-income residents may be shifting the overall composition.
- There is variation in the trajectories by racial group.
- With the largest gains in higher-income share in White and Asian groups.
- These results inform:
  - How mobility researchers think about population change and dynamics of very high-income people.
  - Our understanding of how race and class interact.
- Limitations:
  - The data only represent compositions, so individual contribution is not clear.
  - No specificity in which Asian groups are in the sample.
  - LRT tracts are not randomly assigned, so inference is tentative.

## References

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# The Unsleping Guardian: Press Freedom, Regime Type, and Political Stability in Latin America

Nora Corasaniti

University of Maryland Baltimore County, Department of Political Science

## Abstract

This research set out to explore the relationship between regime type, political stability, and press freedom in Latin American nations. The study of press freedom is and has always been an important concept to understand. Press freedom is linked to almost every facet of governance. It was theorized that nations that are democratic are also often more transparent and open, allowing the press to report on government interactions and happenings of the nation. Furthermore, nations that are politically stable are often less violent and foster an environment in which a free press corps can thrive without fear of repercussions for reporting the news about the government as truthfully and accurately as possible. Employing data from Freedom House's 2015 "Freedom in the Press" study and data from the World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators 2014 annual study, various statistical tests were performed to determine the size and significance of the relationship between variables in the way predicted by the research hypotheses. Quantitative results revealed that regime type and political stability both had a significant impact on press freedom. Two brief case studies of Columbia and Uruguay were also presented as a means to better understand the causal relationships between the variables.

## Hypotheses

- H1: Nations that are more democratic in regime type will have more freedom of the press.  
 H2: Nations that are more politically stable will have more freedom of the press.

## Methods: Quantitative Data

Concept	Indicator	Variable
DV: Press Freedom	Freedom House: Indexed set of questions in which answers were assigned a numerical value. Composite scores from the set of questions determined press freedom.	Variable with ordinal measurement: 0 means completely free press, 100 means not at all free press
IV 1: Regime Type	Freedom House: Indexed set of questions in which answers were assigned a numerical value. Composite scores from the set of questions determined regime type.	Binary variable: 1: more democratic (1-2.5) 2: less democratic (3-7)
IV 2: Political Stability	Worldwide Governance Indicators: Aggregate data compiled from various sources were manipulated to fit WGI scale.	Variable with ordinal measurement: -2.5: Less political stability +2.5: More political stability

Nations included in the study were Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Ordinary least squares regression analysis was used to determine relative significance of each variable.

## Methods: Qualitative Data

After performing all statistical tests and transformations, two nations were selected to confirm the research hypotheses using process tracing. With a press freedom score of 24, a democratic regime type, and a political stability score of +1.00, Uruguay is a perfect model for the hypothesis that more democratic and more politically stable nations will have more press freedom. Conversely, Colombia is a model for the reverse with a more autocratic regime, a political stability score of -1.12, and a press freedom score of 55. Research was gathered from the individual country reports of Freedom House's studies and news outlets such as the BBC and analyzed for evidence of causal relationships.

## Descriptive Statistics

	Minimum value	Maximum value	Mean	Std. deviation	
Dependent Variable					
Freedom of the Press	17: Free	91: Not free	51.75	17.52	
Independent variables					
Nominal measurement					
Regime Type					More Democ ratic: 45% Less Democ ratic: 55%
Ordinal measurement					
Political Stability	-1.12: Less stable	1.00: More stable	-.1340	.54860	

## Data Analysis

### Ordinary Least Squares Regression for Press Freedom

Independent Variable	Model 1 $\beta$ (St. Error)	Model 2 $\beta$ (St. Error)	Model 3 $\beta$ (St. Error)
Regime Type	24.394* (.000)		22.939* (.005)
Political Stability		-14.487* (.045)	-2.388 (.722)
Constant	33.939	49.809	15.875
N	20	20	20
Adj. R <sup>2</sup>	.477	.162	.451

\* Denotes significance at  $p < 0.05$

## Discussion

In the quantitative data, the variables both achieved significance in single linear regression. However, only regime type achieved significance in multi-variable regression, signaling that it has more explanatory power over press freedom than political stability. Theoretically speaking, regime type drives many factors in governance including press freedom whereas political stability is more abstract in its effects, therefore explaining the higher significance of regime type. This could also be explained by invalid indicators in the aggregate data used by Worldwide Governance Indicators. However, the research hypotheses were confirmed in the quantitative testing. This result is only generalizable to the countries of Latin America and perhaps those with similar regime type and political conditions. This fact is due to the most similar system design. Nevertheless, this study has revealed some interesting facts about Latin American governance that can be used to further explore the aspects of press freedom there and around the globe.

## Qualitative Case Studies

### Uruguay

- Constitutionally protected rights to free expression and press
- Affluent
- Liberal laws
- Racial and economic divisions prompted 19<sup>th</sup> century civil war spanning into the 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Stabilization post-civil war in 1967
- Democratic regime
- Politically stable



Photo courtesy of operationworld.com

### Colombia

- Region plagued by violence and cartel activity
- Colombian government "synonymous" with human rights crimes
- Society is very class-based and unequal
- Though is a republican form of government, there is no true civil liberty or democracy
- Not at all politically stable as the region has succumbed to violence and upheaval



Photo courtesy of operationworld.com

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Resources  
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