

The Importance of Homophily for Perceived Ethno-Racial Discrimination

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Research Question

Are national-origin and panethnic homophily significant factors in explaining the odds of perceived discrimination and is this effect mediated by identity?

Theory

Theoretically, Homophily increases perceived discrimination

- Diffusion (Strang 1991)
- Chosen Trauma (Volkan 2004)

H1: National-origin homophily will increase the odds of perceiving discrimination

H2: Panethnic homophily will increase the odds of perceiving discrimination, however to a lesser extent than national-origin homophily.

Identity Centrality increases perceived discrimination

- Homophilous relationships lead to identity centrality (Leonard, Mehra, and Katerberg 2008; McFarland and Pals 2005) and strong identification as a minority leads respondents to feel “more personally vulnerable to discrimination” (Sellers and Shelton 2003: 1080, Operario and Fiske 2001).

H3: ‘Minority’ identities will increase the odds of perceiving discrimination when compared to ‘majority’ identities. This effect will mediate the effect of homophily.

Methodology

2,698

N

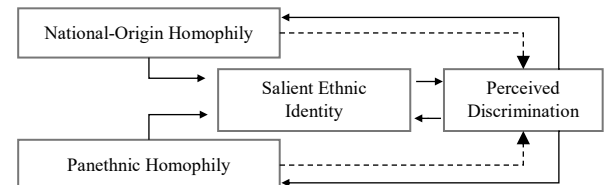
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Using the Children of immigrants Longitudinal Survey (Portes & Rumbaut 2012), I estimate a fixed-effects logistic model predicting perceived discrimination of 2,698 adolescent children of immigrants in Miami in 1992. I use 40 imputations to deal with missing data and Kohler et al. coefficient scale adjustment in order to test for mediation.

Important Figures & Tables

Figure 1: Theoretical Model of the Effects of Homophily on Perceived Discrimination



Dashed lines represent variables to be tested in this paper

Figure 2: Predicted Probabilities of Homophily with other Independent Variables at Means

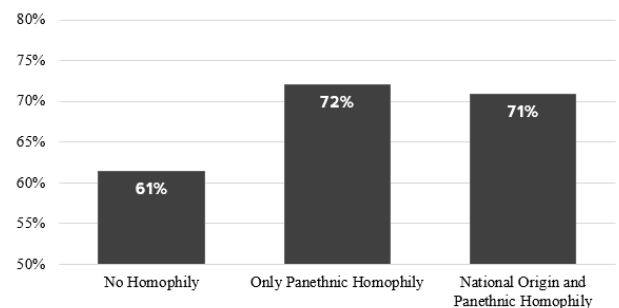
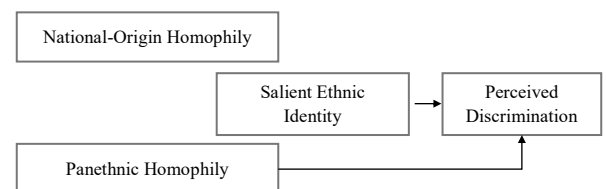


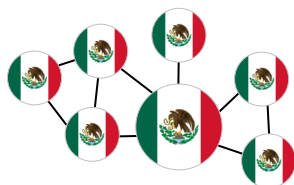
Figure 2: Updated Model of the Effects of Homophily on Perceived Discrimination



Takeaways

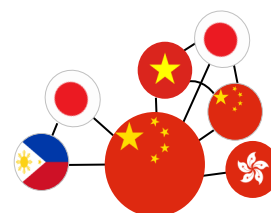
H1×

National-origin homophily has no additional association with perceived discrimination net of the panethnic homophily effect.



H2✓

Panethnic homophily significantly increases the perception of discrimination against them independent of identity salience.



H3×

Homophily is not mediated by identity. Identity is not a mechanism of homophily but a separate effect.

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Works Cited

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