

NATIONALISM & IMMIGRATION FEARS IN THE 2016 ELECTION

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Context

- American nationalism and sentiments about immigration have been a topic of media discussion since September 11, 2001
- Media attention on these subjects has only increased since the 2016 election, with many sources suggesting that a rise in anti-immigrant attitudes and nationalistic sentiments resulted in the election of Donald Trump and his “America first” campaign stance
- Surprisingly, very few published studies on the actual impact of these ideologies on the results of the 2016 election

Definitions

■ Nationalism:

- (1) the attitude that the members of a nation have when they care about their identity as members of that nation and
- (2) the actions that the members of a nation take in seeking to achieve (or sustain) some form of political sovereignty
- In both cases, national identity is an important component

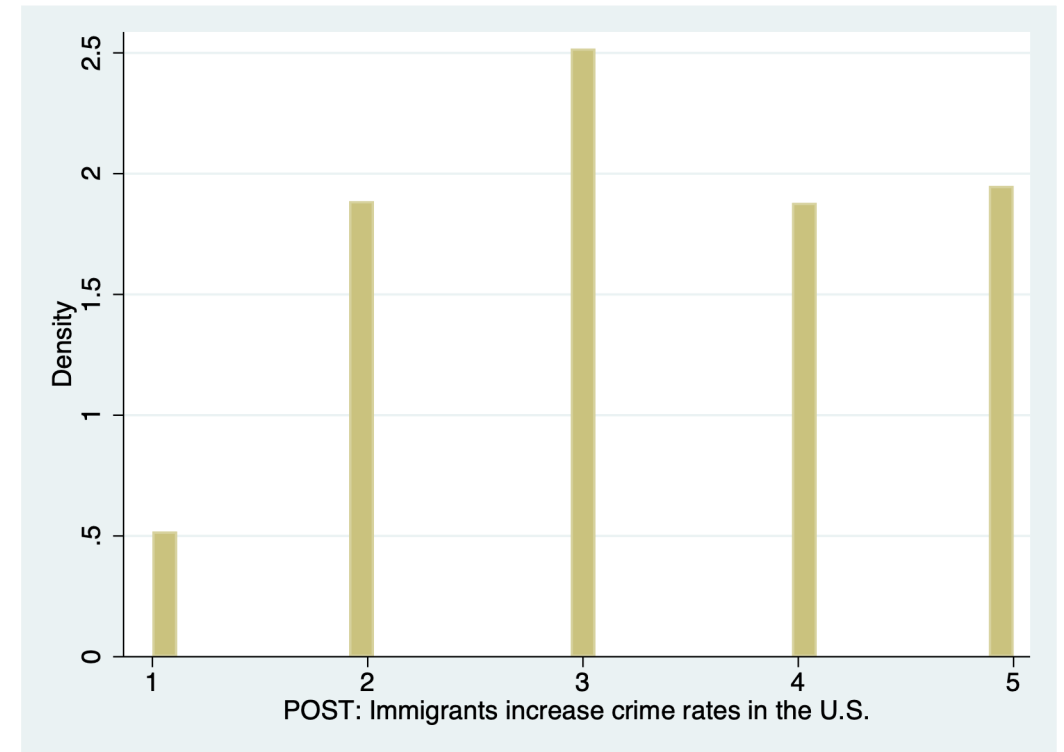
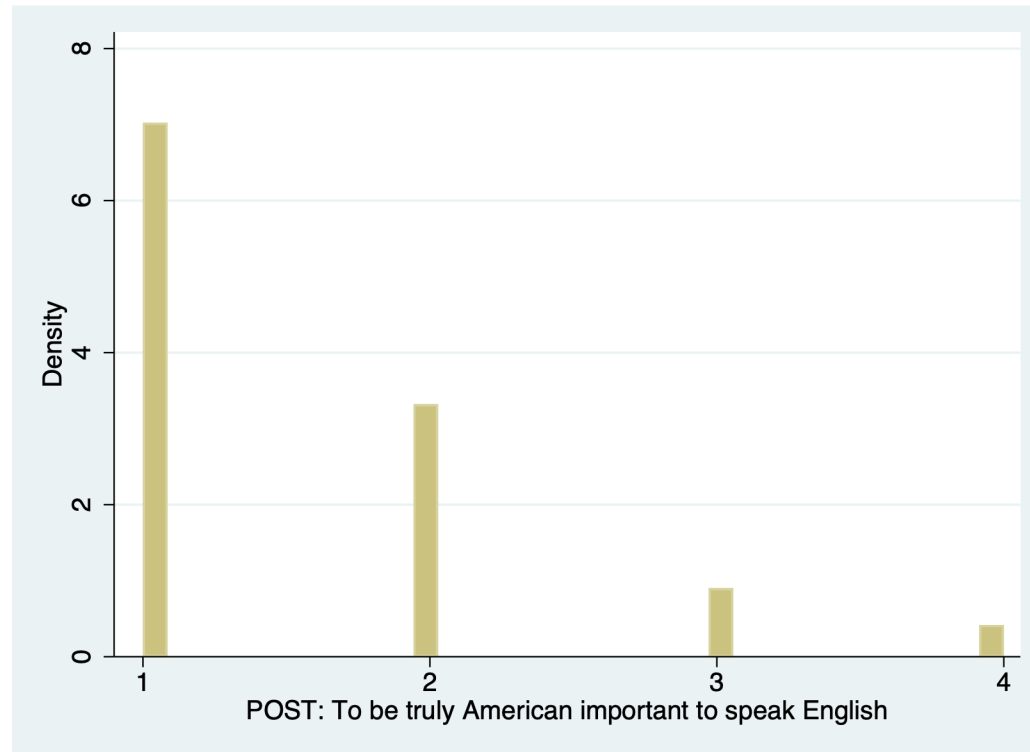
■ Immigration fears:

- Feelings that there will be and/or have been negative consequences relating to immigration into the U.S.

Data

- American National Election Studies, 2016 Time Series Study
 - $n=3,648$
- Fears about immigrations (imfear), higher values indicate more agreement
 - *Immigrants have a negative impact on: culture, crime, and jobs in America*
- Nationalistic attitudes (nationalism), higher values indicate more importance
 - *To be truly American, one must: be born in the US, have American ancestry, speak English, and follow American customs and traditions*
- Discrete, multinoulli data which are not normally distributed
 - *Asymptotic distribution free (ADF) estimation method using Stata*

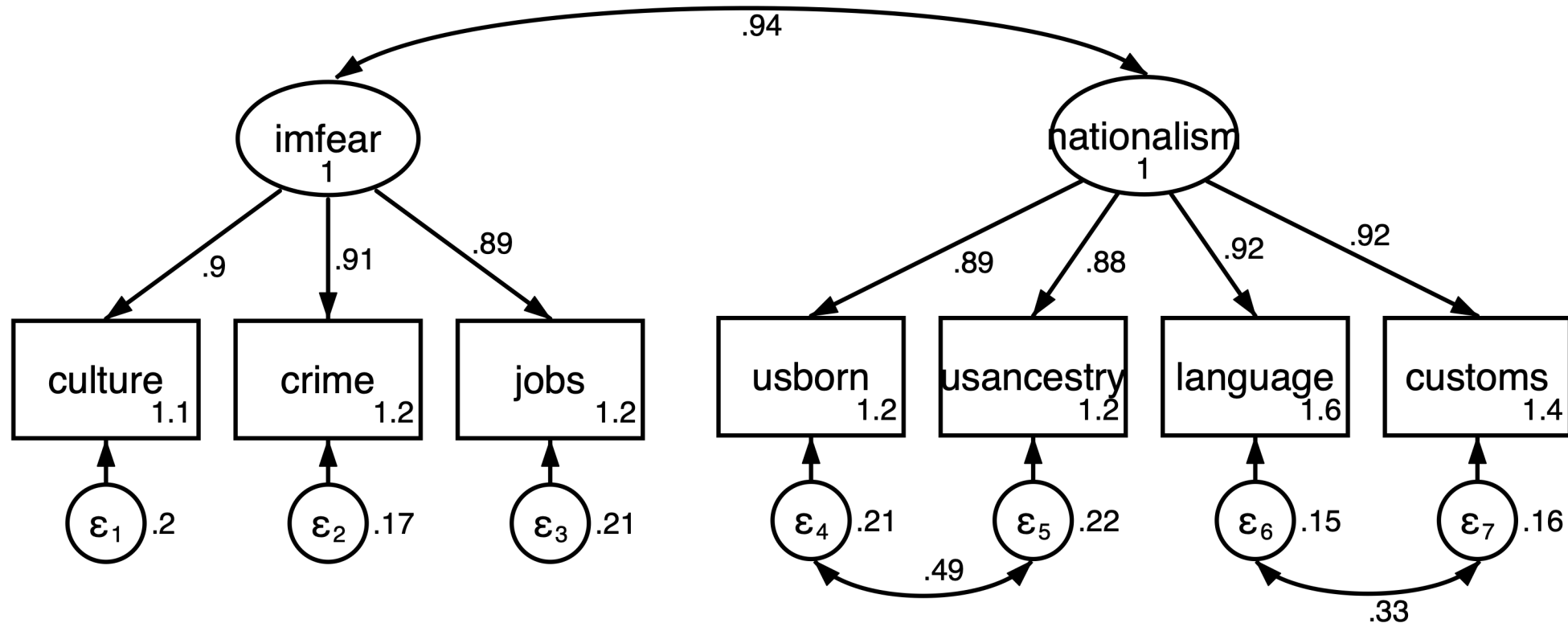
Data



Hypothesis

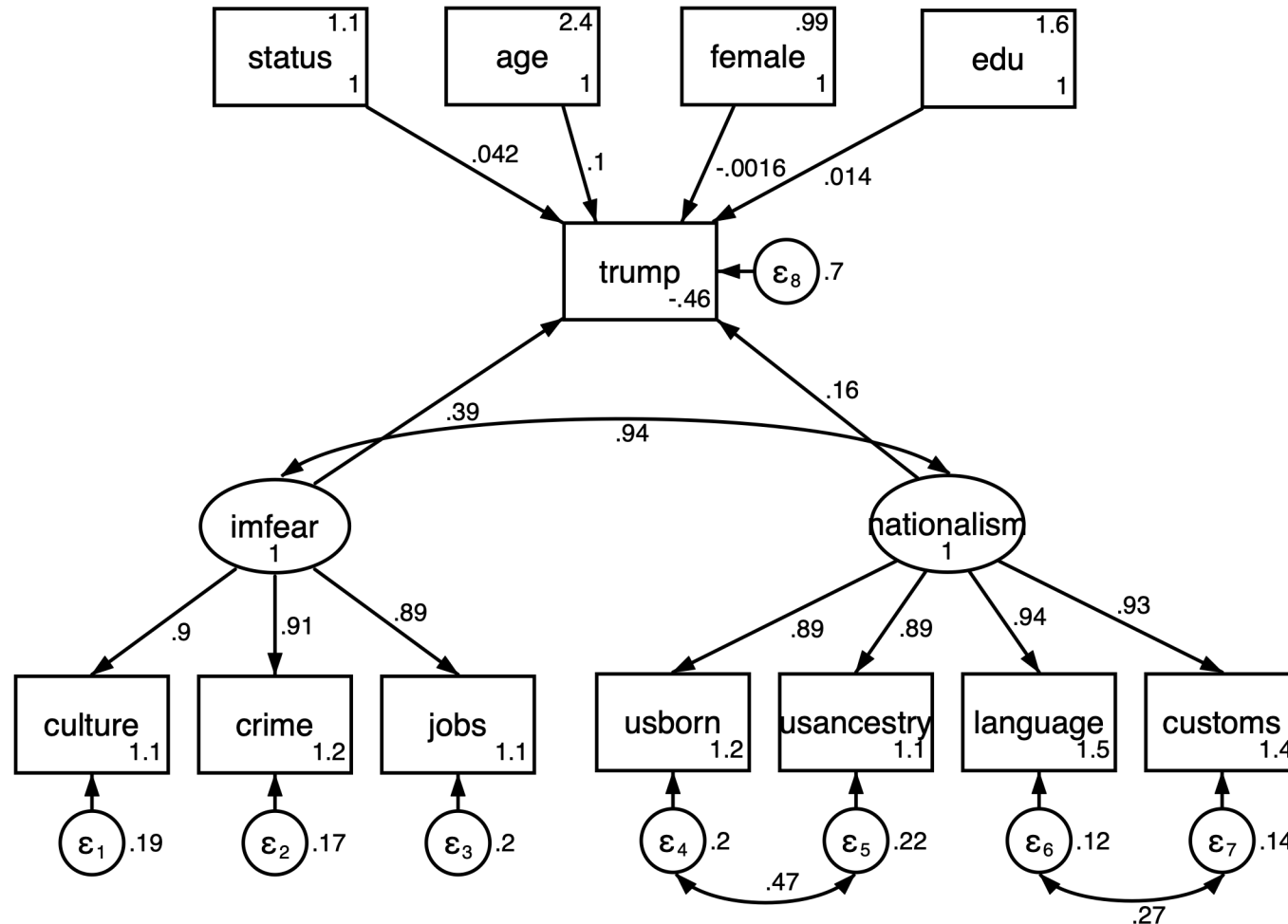
- Questions in the ANES are accurate predictors of attitudes about immigration and nationalism
- There is no variance between groups
- Attitudes about immigration and nationalism significantly impacted Donald Trump's voteshare in the 2016 election

Confirmatory Factor Analysis



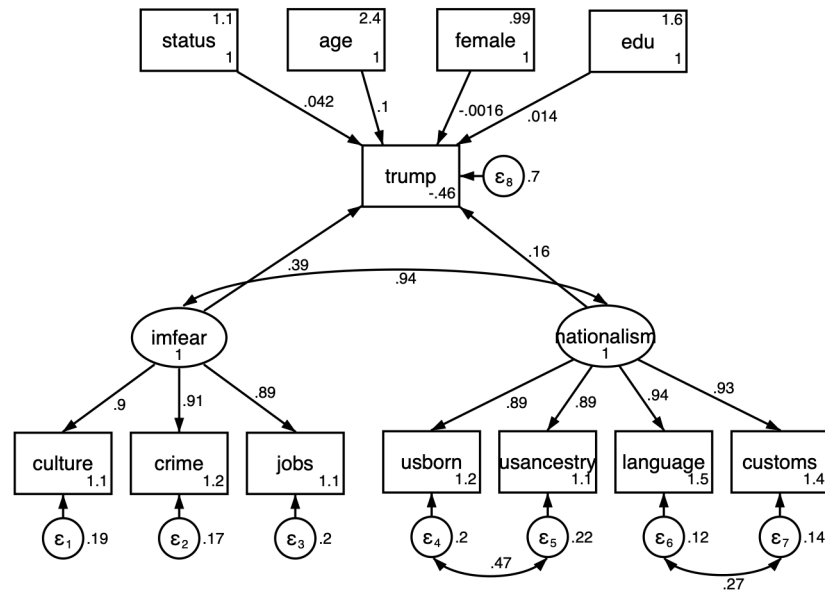
RMSEA = 0.058 $\chi^2(11) = 168.836$

Full Structural Equation Model



RMSEA = 0.045 $\chi^2(37) = 431.062$

Full Structural Equation Model



RMSEA = 0.045 $\chi^2(37) = 431.062$

	Coefficient	Standard Error	z	P> z
status	0.0420	0.0128	3.28	0.001***
age	0.1035	0.0131	7.92	0.000***
female	-0.0016	0.0128	-0.13	0.900
edu	0.0144	0.0111	1.29	0.196
imfear	0.3856	0.0506	7.61	0.000***
nationalism	0.1573	0.0484	3.25	0.001***
constant	-0.4616	0.0421	-10.95	0.000***

Discussion

- CFA confirmed that the questions intended to measure fears about immigration levels and nationalistic attitudes in the ANES are good measures
- Group variances were found for both gender and self-evaluated socioeconomic status
- Higher levels of nationalist beliefs and fears about immigration significantly increased the likelihood of voting for Trump in 2016, even when accounting for factors like age, education, gender and self-evaluated socioeconomic status

Future Study

- Time series study leading up to election and following through 2020 election
- Explore racial ideologies
- Try to replicate using other data like

Sources

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