

The Islander's Opinions of Immigration

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Problem Statement: What conceptions do islanders have about immigration and community?

Methods

- Qualitative study using a **phenomenographic grounded-theory approach**. (see Appendix A for explicit statements of biases.)
- Data collected in a series of **interviews** (n=20) where participants were selected through **multistage cluster sampling**. (see Appendix B for data collection methods.)
- Responses analyzed by 4 student researchers using **In Vivo Coding** and **Concept Coding**. (see Appendix C for analytics methods.)
- Arrived at consensus categories after **one round of coding** and collapsing into categories.

Results

Prominent themes mentioned by the islanders include:

- Participation in community activities means **active** time volunteering, that may contribute to the well-being of oneself and their communities.
- Cultural identity is about one's own **history** and traditions but change and misunderstanding could breed **conflict**.
- Immigration means more **diversity** within the community and possible **political** benefits and/or issues.

Descriptions of these and other categories of conceptions found in Appendix F.

Sample included 65% male and 35% female islanders. (See Appendix G for more demographic information.)

Considerations

- Many participants did not understand the interview questions or would show a general indifference towards support or disagreement with the topics of immigration and community.
- Sometimes participants would mention that we should instead talk to the mayor in response to a question.
- Since we were working with AI some of the questions produced the same answers from different participants.

Disclosures

The student researchers had no financial incentives. Motivations were to complete the project for our Statistics 348 class and to get a good grade. This project was funded by PLU student's tuition dollars hard at work.

APPENDIX A: Making Biases Explicit

Despite efforts to try to avoid preconceived knowledge, the research team acknowledged biases and sought to make them as explicit as possible. Journal writing occurred before and throughout the interview and coding process to document islander's perceptions of immigration. We want to acknowledge as a group the following:

- 1) We are aware that immigrants are people who all have their own perspectives and stories.
- 2) We are aware that not all immigrants immigrate by choice, some are forced to.
- 3) We are aware that immigration is just as much of a social topic as it is a political topic.

Common expectations included immigration as a political issue, issues with ignorance towards immigration, immigration as a “hot topic,” that people are divided on the topic of immigration, that lack of empathy fosters a poor community, and that immigration laws can be extremely restrictive. From our personal biases, we predict that islanders will try to evaluate immigration in a way that is neutral to the topic, that immigrants will be indifferent to the idea of immigration, and that there will be mixed opinions about community.

APPENDIX B: Interview Protocol

This interview involves four questions. We determined it is important to be consistent throughout the interview process to produce the most unbiased results. For this reason, each islander interviewed is asked all four questions once in the same order and with the same phrasing. The questions are asked one at a time in order to give islanders a chance to respond. The procedure is as follows:

Interviewer: Do you participate in community activities?

<participant response>

Interviewer: What does cultural identity mean to you?

<participant response>

Interviewer: How do you feel about immigration?

<participant response>

Interviewer: Tell me more.

<participant response>

The islanders are only asked to answer a follow up question once after the third question. We have decided to only ask one follow up question because we are primarily interested in learning more about question three. We believe that asking the follow up question at this point in the interview will enrich our data in a meaningful way. Responses to each question are recorded as direct quotes from the islanders.

APPENDIX C: Sampling Methods

Our objective was to develop a sampling methodology that would enable random selection such that each islander would have an equal opportunity to be chosen. However, to compile a comprehensive list of all islanders would have been a time-consuming task given the scale of the project. Therefore, we opted for a multistage cluster sampling approach. Initially, we classified the islanders according to their respective villages and then randomly selected four villages. Then, we chose five random households from each village, and randomly selected a single individual who is over 18 years old from each household. By adopting this approach, we were able to significantly reduce the effort required, as there were only 27 villages, and each household on an island was numbered consecutively. In cases where a household was vacant or the selected islander refused to participate in the study, we would proceed to randomly select another household until a suitable participant was identified.

APPENDIX D: De-Identified Responses with Memos

Codebook:

- ID: random ID number assigned to islander
- Question: the question islanders are responding to
- Response: islander's answer to their question
- In-Vivo Code: in-vivo codes are assigned by random researcher during coding
- Memo: said researcher's memos during round one of coding
- Concept-Code: said researcher's concept codes applied in round 2 of coding

A	B	C	D	E	F
8619	Q1	I haven't really thought about that before. I sup	Haven't thought about		Thinking
7205	Q2	Well, I have my casual interests but I'm not sure	Casual interests, Uncertain if cultural, Not sure what counts		Ambiguous
1230	Q3	I'm not really familiar with the immigration situat	Lack of familiarity with Suggestion to consult Uncertainty about loca		Unfamiliarity, A
9854	Q3	I mean, isn't this a really complicated topic? Lik	Complexity of the topic Recognition of multiple Skepticism of simplisti		Complexity, Ske
6788	Q2	I participate in a lot of community activities. I thi	Need for nuanced ana Participates in commu		Complexity, Ske
3590	Q2	Tradition is the very life blood of a peoples. If th	Participates in commu		Community, pa
5032	Q2	Won't having too many different ideas in one pl	Life blood of people. C causes conflict	Wow interes Lots are thin	People, Change
7833	Q3	I'm more concerned about the environment. The	Concerned about the e	This answer	environment, ov
1260	Q4	I mean, isn't this a really complicated topic? Lik	really complicated top	Big theme or	immigration is a
1383	Q4	I see two cultures within me. If I can see similar	two cultures within me		
8266	Q3	Is it really the best idea? What if there starts to	decrease in employme		immigration pro
5531	Q2	Well, I have my casual interests but I'm not sure	casual interests, coun		
1099	Q1	Sometimes I think, Laranya you should do more	help out, make a differ		help, difference
2037	Q1	I do things here and there but I wouldn't say I'm	do things here and the		active participat
1369	Q4	In the end, whatever our views are towards the	whatever our views to		views, policies,
9140	Q4	I always try to put myself in the shoes of others.	put myself in shoes of		moving, new isl

APPENDIX E: Analytic Methods

Following the data collection, each member of our research team performed an individual In Vivo coding analysis, wherein the data was thoroughly reviewed, and codes were assigned based on the words and phrases used by the participants. Subsequently, a concept coding analysis was carried out, whereby categories were identified to reflect the emerging patterns observed in the In Vivo codes. We then conducted a team discussion to consolidate and summarize the categories by merging similar categories and eliminating redundant ones.

APPENDIX F: Categories of Conceptions

Themes are given in alphabetical order.

Theme	Description	Examples
Active	References whether or not people are active in the participation in their community activities.	"I do things here and there but I wouldn't say I'm an active participant in the community." "I participate in a lot of community activities. I think it's essential to be active in your community to maintain a sense of wellbeing."
Conflict	References this possible cultural misunderstandings and worries of too many ideas leading to conflict.	"Won't having too many different ideas in one place cause conflict?" "I think cultural misunderstandings could become a problem"
Diversity	This tends to reference a positive point of view that new people bring more perspectives.	"Diversity is a great word, isn't it. I think we need more of it." "I support it! I think it is good to meet new people and it would be nice to see our island through a different perspective."
History	References that many people associate cultural identity with history and traditions.	"I think cultural identity is about remembering your history and understanding the practices that have transcended time." "To me it means to understand your island's history."
Politics	References to immigration and how it inherently correlates to political topics such as: economics, the environment, and globalization.	"Globalisation is inevitable. I mean, it's not like we can just close ourselves off forever." "I mean, isn't this a really complicated topic? Like, immigration affects so many different things such as the economy, the environment and politics. Is it really as simple as saying it's 'good' or 'bad'?"

Note: Many of the participants answered at some point with confusion to the question. For example, one person responded, "Um, I don't really know much about the topic so I can't really give a good answer." Another response that was frequently given when asked for more information was "In the end, whatever our views are towards the topic, these policies are in the hands of the mayor."

APPENDIX G: Demographic Summary of Sample

This sample was slightly skewed across gender with 65% of our sampled subjects identifying as male. Of all of the sampled subjects, the majority were between the ages of 18-40 and 55-80. Our demographic information regarding location is not very interesting due to our sampling method.