

Supporting Information (SI)

Beyond Changing Minds: Raising the Issue Importance of Expanding Legal Immigration

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Question	Hypothesis	Sampling plan	Analysis Plan	Interpretation given to different outcomes
Does receiving information about the national benefits of increasing immigration affect the perceived importance of the issue among pro-immigration respondents?	H1: Receiving relevant information about the national benefits of increasing immigration will increase the perceived issue importance of immigration among pro-immigration respondents.	A power analysis suggests that the sample size of 2700 (or ~900 pro-immigration respondents) will have sufficient 90% power to detect an effect size of $d=0.2$ (0.04 on the 0-1 index scale).	I will compare the mean values for the issue importance index between the combined treatment and the combined control and placebo groups using a standard difference-in-means estimator among pro-immigration subjects.	A significant positive/negative coefficient will be interpreted as evidence that relevant information increases/decreases relevant outcomes. To evaluate effects where the null hypothesis cannot be rejected, I will test for equivalence using two one-sided tests against the interval of $d = \pm 0.15$. If the observed confidence interval is fully contained in this interval, I will consider this as evidence for a practical null effect (otherwise, I will consider the results inconclusive regarding the null).
Does receiving information about the national benefits of increasing immigration affect the perceived issue importance of subissues related to immigration flows among pro-immigration respondents (relative to subissues related to immigration stocks)?	H2: Receiving relevant information about the national benefits of increasing immigration will increase the perceived issue importance of subissues related to immigration flows among pro-immigration respondents (relative to subissues related to immigration stocks).		I will compare the mean values for the subissue importance index between the combined treatment and the combined control and placebo groups using a standard difference-in-means estimator among pro-immigration subjects.	
Does receiving information about the national benefits of increasing immigration affect the behavioral manifestations of the perceived importance of the issue among pro-immigration respondents?	H3: Receiving relevant information about the national benefits of increasing immigration will increase the behavioral manifestations of the perceived issue importance of immigration among pro-immigration respondents	A power analysis suggests the sample size of 2700 (or ~900 pro-immigration respondents) will have 90% power to detect an effect size of 10 percentage points given the baseline of 30%.	I will compare the share of signed petitions between the combined treatment and the combined control and placebo groups using a standard difference-in-means estimator among pro-immigration subjects.	
Does receiving information about the national benefits of increasing immigration affect the perceived importance of the issue among anti-immigration respondents?	H4: Receiving relevant information about the national benefits of increasing immigration will not increase the perceived issue importance of immigration among anti-immigration respondents.	A power analysis suggests that the sample size of 2700 (or ~1800 non-pro-immigration respondents) will have 99% power to detect an effect size of $d=0.2$ (0.04 on the 0-1 index scale).	I will compare the mean values for the issue importance index between the combined treatment and the combined control and placebo groups using a standard difference-in-means estimator in non-pro-immigration subjects.	
Does receiving information about the national benefits of increasing immigration affect immigration preferences?	H5: Receiving relevant information about the national benefits of increasing immigration will not affect immigration preferences.	A power analysis suggests that the sample size of 2700 will have high 99% power to detect an effect size of $d=0.15$ (0.03 on the 0-1 index scale).	I will compare the mean values for the post-treatment preference index between the combined treatment and the combined control and placebo groups using a standard difference-in-means estimator after adjusting for the pre-treatment index among all subjects.	

Table A1: Design Table. The table summarizes the pre-registered hypotheses and specifications.

Appendix A: Tables and Figures

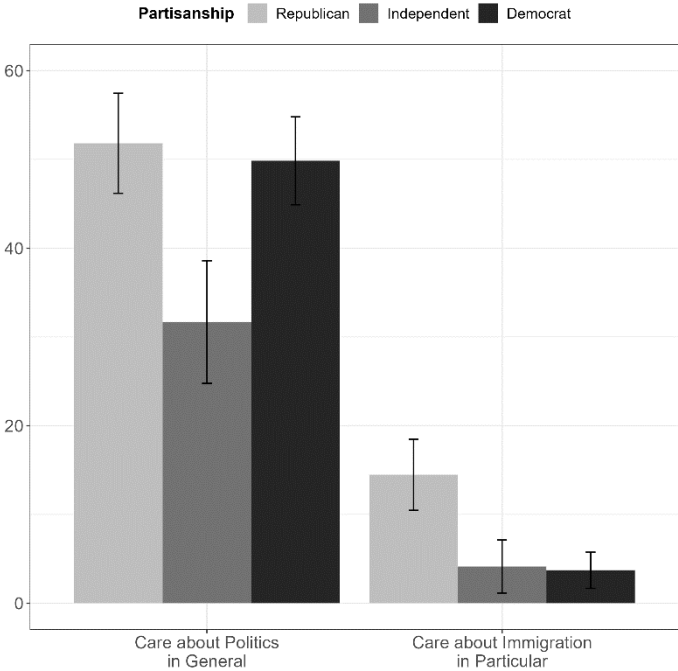


Figure A1: Immigration Issue Importance Asymmetry (Pure Control Only). The figure shows responses to the “issue public” questions by immigration partisanship based on the UAS survey only among those respondents in the pure control group (N = 1403). Bars indicate 95% CI.

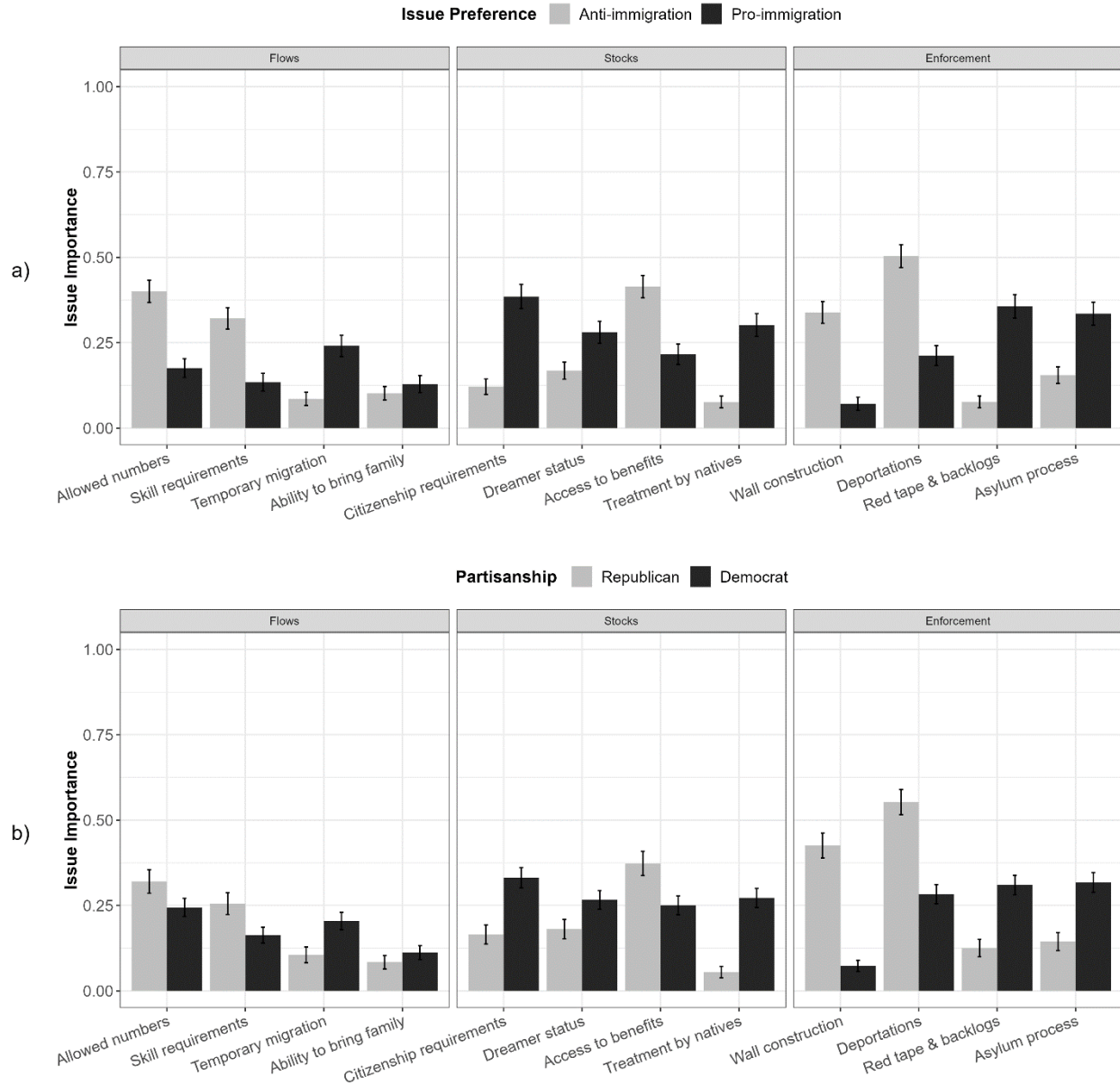


Figure A2: Immigration Subissue Importance Asymmetry (Pure Control Only). The figure shows the importance of immigration subissues by immigration preference or partisanship based on the UAS survey only among those respondents in the pure control group. Bars are 95% CI.

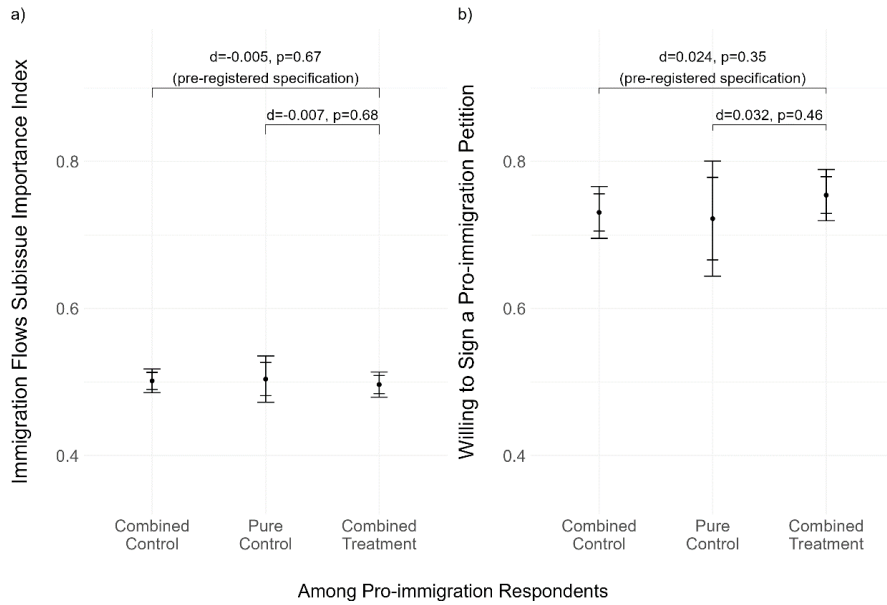


Figure A3: Information Effects on Immigration Subissue Importance and Willingness to Sign Petition. The figures show the treatment effects among pro-immigration respondents on the importance of flows-related subissues (a, H2) and willingness to sign a petition (b, H3) based on the UAS survey. Bars are 95(84)% CI.

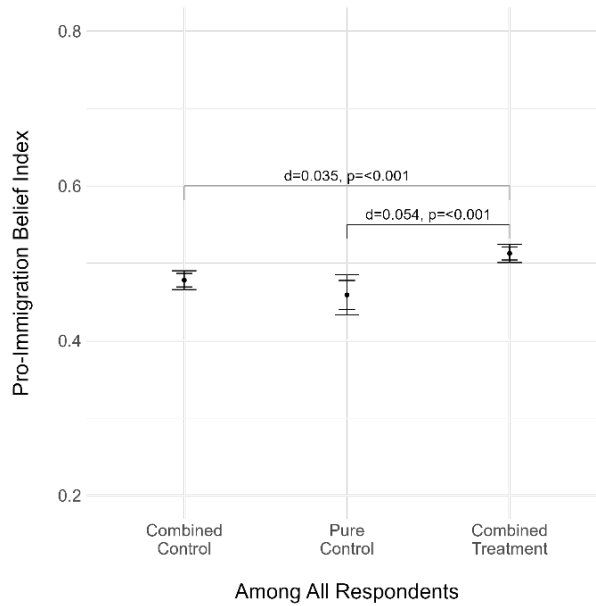


Figure A4: Information Effects on Immigration Beliefs (Manipulation Checks). The figure shows the treatment effects among all on pro-immigration beliefs based on the UAS survey. All estimates statistically control for pre-treatment preferences. Bars are 95(84)% CI.

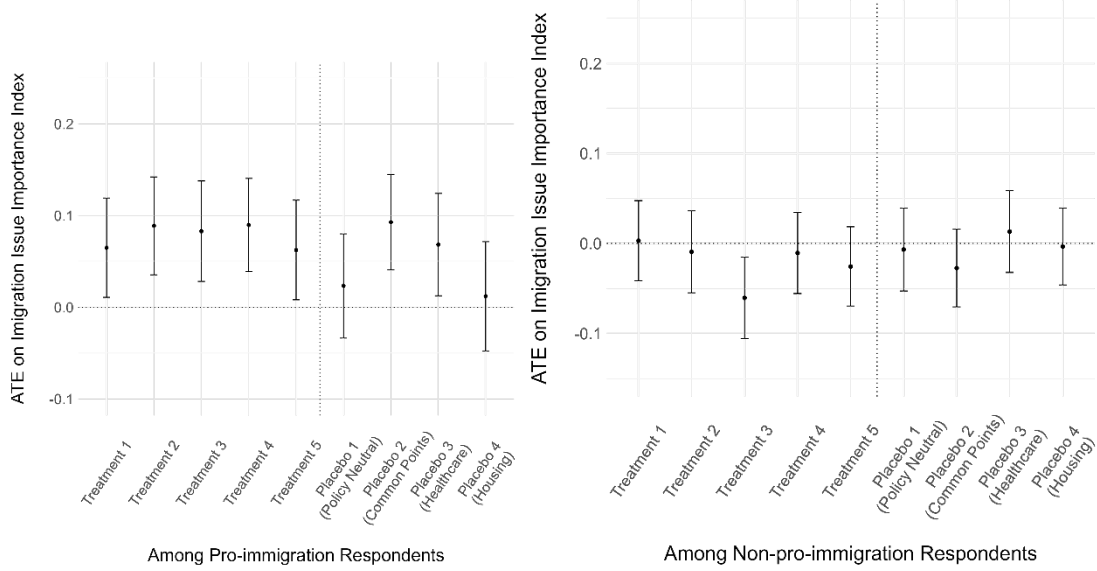


Figure A5: Information Effects on Immigration Issue Importance (Exploratory Analysis). The figure shows the effects of distinct treatment texts (relative to pure control) on the personal importance of immigration among pro-immigration and non-pro-immigration respondents based on the UAS survey. Bars are 95% CI.

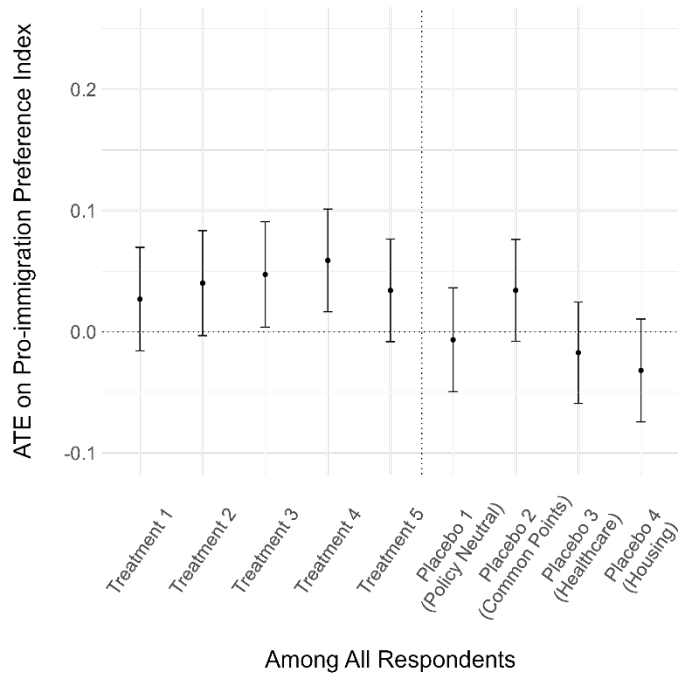


Figure A6: Information Effects on Pro-Immigration Preferences (Exploratory Analysis). The figures shows the effects of distinct treatment texts (relative to pure control) among all on pro-immigration preferences based on the UAS survey. Bars are 95% CI.

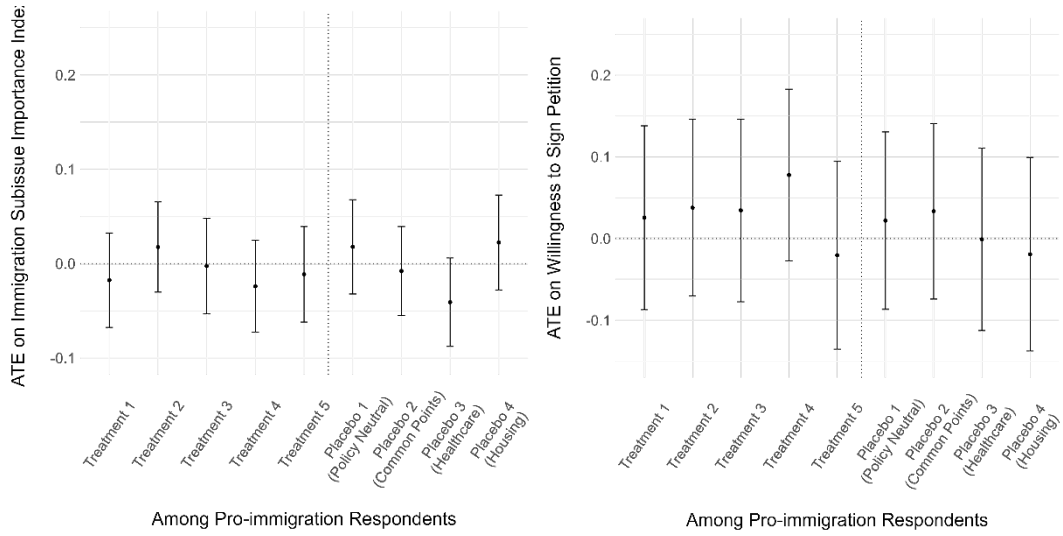


Figure A7: Information Effects on Immigration Subissue Importance and Willingness to Sign Petition

(Exploratory Analysis). The figures shows the effects of distinct treatment texts (relative to pure control) on the importance of flows-related subissues and willingness to sign a petition among pro-immigration respondents based on the UAS survey. Bars are 95% CI.

	Issue Importance of Pro-imm. Rs. (H1)	Flows Importance of Pro-imm. Rs. (H2)	Petition Signing of Pro-imm. Rs. (H3)	Issue Importance of Anti-imm. Rs. (H4)	Issue Preferences of All Rs. (H5)
Treatment Group	0.038** (0.013)	-0.005 (0.012)	0.024 (0.025)	-0.015 (0.010)	0.044*** (0.006)
Pre-treatment Preferences					0.489*** (0.007)
Observations	1,196	1,194	1,195	2,234	3,425

Table A2: Information Effects on Immigration Issue Importance and Preferences. The table shows the effect of information treatment on various immigration outcomes of interest across five hypotheses. All models are OLS regressions with pre-registered specifications. For variable descriptions, see Appendix. The standard errors are given in parentheses: *p<0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.001.

	Issue Importance of Pro-imm. Rs. (H1)	Flows Importance of Pro-imm. Rs. (H2)	Petition Signing of Pro-imm. Rs. (H3)	Issue Importance of Anti-imm. Rs (H4)	Issue Preferences of All Rs. (H5) (H5*)	
Treatment Group	0.027* (0.013)	-0.006 (0.012)	0.037 (0.026)	-0.023* (0.010)	0.059*** (0.008)	0.056*** (0.009)
Pre-treatment Preferences					0.454*** (0.018)	
Female	0.044** (0.013)	-0.021 (0.012)	-0.020 (0.026)	-0.021* (0.011)	0.014 (0.008)	0.005 (0.010)
Old (40+)	0.032* (0.013)	-0.004 (0.012)	-0.007 (0.026)	0.081*** (0.011)	-0.068*** (0.009)	-0.120*** (0.010)
College (+)	-0.015 (0.016)	0.036** (0.014)	-0.013 (0.031)	-0.004 (0.017)	0.015 (0.014)	0.028 (0.016)
Born Abroad	0.143*** (0.019)	-0.005 (0.017)	-0.044 (0.037)	0.063*** (0.018)	0.067*** (0.015)	0.142*** (0.017)
Rich (\$150K+)	-0.070*** (0.018)	0.007 (0.016)	-0.004 (0.035)	0.010 (0.017)	0.005 (0.014)	0.021 (0.015)
Survey weights	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	1,190	1,188	1,189	2,224	2,219	2,229

Table A3: Information Effects on Immigration Issue Importance and Preferences (Alternative Exploratory Specifications). The table shows the effect of information treatment on various immigration outcomes of interest across five hypotheses. All models are OLS regressions with adjustments for survey weights and demographic controls. For variable descriptions, see Appendix. The standard errors are given in parentheses: * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$.

Pre-registered Hypothesis	P-value	P-value (Holm-Bonferroni)
Hypothesis 1	0.004	0.016
Hypothesis 2	0.673	0.705
Hypothesis 3	0.352	0.705
Hypothesis 4	0.14	0.419
Hypothesis 5	<0.0001	<0.0001

Table A4: Holm-Bonferroni Adjusted P-values for Pre-Registered Hypotheses. For specifications, see Table A2.

Appendix B: Survey Questionnaire

Survey sequence

1. Survey consent form (<1 minute)
2. Pre-treatment covariates (2 minutes)
 - a. Standard sociodemographic and political covariates [given by the survey provider]
 - b. General issue importance
 - c. Immigration preferences
 - d. Healthcare attitudes
3. Treatment (2-3 minutes)
 - a. One text containing new information about the benefits of expanding immigration
 - i. Treatment Group (5/10 of the sample across five alternative texts, one each)
 - ii. Placebo Group 1 (1/10 of the sample)
 - iii. Placebo Group 2 (1/10 of the sample)
 - iv. Placebo Group 3 (1/10 of the sample)
 - v. Placebo Group 4 (1/10 of the sample)
 - vi. Control Group (1/10 of the sample, no text)
 - b. Substantive question to encourage attentiveness
4. Post-treatment outcomes (3-4 minutes)
 - a. Immigration issue importance
 - b. Immigration subissue importance
 - c. Immigration preferences
 - d. Immigration issue importance (quasi-behavioral manifestations)
 - e. Manipulation checks

Pre-treatment covariates

[Include an introduction:] “The survey asks about your subjective opinion about various issues. There are no correct or incorrect answers, we are just interested in your honest opinions.”

Standard sociodemographic and political covariates: age, gender, race, nativity, education, income, location, occupation, marital status, partisanship

[pre-treatment covariates were given by the survey provider based on previous surveys]

General Issue Importance (Issue Public) [single-choice, randomly flip the choice order]

- “Some people have a political issue that they care about more than most other issues. They might think about the issue a lot. They might pay particular attention to news about that issue, even when it’s not making national news. They might focus on what political candidates say about that issue, and decide who to vote for on the basis of that issue. Or they might just care about the issue a lot. Is there an issue like that for you?” (Yes, No)

[If answered “Yes,” present the following open-ended question:]

- “In just a few words, what issue or two do you care about?”

[Manually coded as “Immigration Issue Public” if “immigration” in general or any specific immigration issue is mentioned (e.g., “border security”, “immigrant rights”)]

[page break]

[Include a preamble:] “The next questions ask for your opinion on several topics. The answers will help us learn what people across the country are thinking about these national issues. If you are unsure, please choose the option that is closest to how you feel.”

Immigration preferences [single-choice questions, randomly flip the order of choices, force responses]:

- “Do you think the number of immigrants from foreign countries who are permitted to come to the United States to live should be increased or decreased?” (Increased, Decreased)
 - “Do you think it should be easier or harder for foreigners to immigrate to the United States legally than it is currently?” (Easier, Harder)
- [Code as “pro-immigration” if all responses are positive; “anti-immigration” if all responses are negative; “neutral” if otherwise]

[page break]

Housing attitudes [single-choice questions, randomly flip the order of choices and keep that order for other similar questions]:

- “Would you support or oppose a ban on the construction of new homes and apartments in your neighborhood?” (Support, Oppose)
 - “Would you support or oppose reducing government regulations on zoning and planning to allow more housing to be built in your area?” (Support, Oppose)
- [these exploratory items are included for the purposes of avoiding priming effects of asking only about immigration and will not be used as outcome for hypothesis testing]

[page break]

Healthcare attitudes [single-choice questions, randomly flip the order of choices]:

- “Now thinking about healthcare in the country as a whole, are you generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of healthcare in this country? (Dissatisfied, Satisfied)
 - “Do you think the cost of healthcare in America, in general, is higher than it should be or lower than it should be?” (Higher than it should be, Lower than it should be)
- [these exploratory items are included for the purposes of avoiding priming effects of asking only about immigration and will not be used as outcome for hypothesis testing]

[page break]

Treatment

[randomly show the respondents one of the five treatments, four placebo texts or no text (10% each across 8 equal groups)]

“For the next question, we will present a summary of a recent report on an important topic.

Please read it carefully. You will be asked a question about the report.

The “Next” button will appear when you have had time to read and answer the question.”

[page break]

[set a timer, do not display the “Next” button for 20 seconds]

[display the same title for all five treatment texts:]

How More Immigration Can Benefit America Now

[Treatment group 1:]

The debates around immigration and its impacts have gone around in circles. We should ask a different question: *how can we choose better immigration policies that benefit Americans?*

—*Increasing skilled immigration will significantly benefit our economy.* These immigrants bring diverse talent and expertise. They create businesses and jobs. With our current restrictions in place, these immigrants can’t invest in our economy or hire Americans.

—*Allowing more immigrants of any skill level can increase economic opportunities for all.* These immigrants can fill essential occupations for which Americans are in short supply. When immigrants take up manual tasks, Americans move to higher-paying jobs that require language and other skills. When our policies restrict most immigrants from filling labor shortages as they do now, these economic opportunities are lost for everyone.

With the right policies in place, increasing legal immigration creates enormous benefits for the United States. New immigrants can help our communities, businesses, and public services to thrive again if only we let them.

Unfortunately, our current immigration policies are too strict and convoluted for this to happen. Every single day our harsh restrictions on legal immigration cost us millions. They prevent immigrants and Americans alike from reuniting with their families and working together for mutual benefit.

[Treatment group 2:]

Immigration is a complicated issue. Many people disagree on how to deal with the current situation at the Southern Border or what to do with those who are here illegally. One thing most sides agree on is that we need to make legal immigration easier. That way, more immigrants can come here to thrive and benefit our country.

Increasing immigration will bring enormous good to our country, our communities, and our economy. New arrivals to the US help drive business creation, fuel innovation, fill essential workforce needs, and strengthen the Social Security system. Our current harsh restrictions on legal immigration keep American families separated and damage our economic potential.

The success of our nation comes, in large part, from our tradition of encouraging people seeking a better life to come here. Severely limiting legal immigration as we do it now puts this at risk.

Instead, we should expand current immigration levels. *We should work to pass immigration reform that makes it safer and faster for prospective immigrants to come and contribute to the US.*

Retaining current restrictions on legal immigration will severely limit our country's ability to respond to the public health and economic crises brought on by the coronavirus and other ongoing global challenges. We cannot afford to shut out the life-saving contributions that immigrants and immigration bring to our country.

[Treatment group 3:]

Immigration is a difficult issue on which many reasonable people disagree. But there is a wide agreement that *we should welcome more legal immigrants and make it easier for them to go through the appropriate process.*

In recent years, millions of Americans quit low-paid work. This made workers hard to find for employers. Some of these jobs could be filled by immigrants who want to join our work force. Immigrants' hard work can help boost local economies that had been stagnant for decades. Immigration can help fix the supply chain pressures, lower inflation, and give more opportunities to Americans seeking better careers. More immigration can help our cities to sustain their success.

Today, more than ever, *increased immigration levels can be a solution to the biggest challenges facing the American economy.* Immigration makes it easier for American workers to improve their career prospects. Filling front-line positions with new immigrants would allow Americans to move into a wider range of higher-paying jobs which require different skills.

Keeping our harsh immigration restrictions in place prevents us from realizing these enormous opportunities. By severely limiting immigration as we do now, we keep many American families separated and poorer than they could have been.

[Treatment group 4:]

People disagree about immigration issues. But many agree that *the United States should make legal immigration easier.* More legal immigration is a safe and sure path—open to no other country—to achieve all of these benefits:

- more innovation, spurred by the addition of top talent from all over the world
- less burden that our retirees impose upon the Social Security system
- rising tax revenues, resulting from the increase in the proportion of workers to retirees
- improvement in our competitive position over China and the rest of the world
- a boost to our image abroad related to immigrants' connections with their relatives back home
- the opportunity given to more people to enjoy their life in the United States.

All we need to do to achieve these benefits is to relax our harsh barriers against legal immigrants. Talented and energetic people want to come here. Yet we do not greatly avail ourselves of this golden opportunity. Instead, we bar the door to many of the most economically productive workers in the world.

Our strict and convoluted immigration policies cost us dearly. Our restrictions on legal immigration prevent so many Americans from reuniting with their families. These restrictions prevent even more willing immigrants from coming and contributing to our country.

[Treatment group 5:]

Immigration is a divisive issue that splits many Americans. But most people can agree that we should make it easier for legal immigrants to come to the US and add value to our society.

Allowing more legal immigration can benefit our country in several major ways. New immigrants can bring diverse skills and talents that create businesses and boost innovation. They can fill labor shortages across the economy and improve the quality of services. By taking on essential jobs, they can enable natives to pursue better careers that demand more skills and education. They can also help sustain our social security system by paying taxes and slowing down population aging.

Our current immigration policies are too restrictive for that to happen. They separate American families from their loved ones abroad and block many willing immigrants from coming legally. Harsh restrictions on legal immigration harm our economy by depriving us of valuable workers and reducing our potential.

We urgently need to reform our immigration system to allow more legal immigrants. We need to welcome more people who want to work hard and join our communities. We must seize the opportunities that immigration offers us to solve some of the biggest challenges we face today.

Doing so can make America stronger, more prosperous, and more influential than ever before.

Follow-up question to increase attentiveness [multiple-choice question, display right after any of the five treatment texts on the same screen before the next button, make “None of the above” an exclusive option]:

- *“According to the information provided above, what are the costs of current US restrictions on legal immigration to American citizens?” (Lost economic opportunities, Family separation, None of the above)
[Responses to the question—identical across all treatments—will not be used to screen or remove any respondents.]*

[Placebo group 1 (policy-neutral facts about immigration)]

Migration

*Ever since the earliest humans began to spread from Africa, humans have been on the move. Even today, 3 percent of the world’s population—at least 258 million people—live outside of their country of origin. The earliest migrants were ancient humans who originated in Africa. Their spread to Eurasia and elsewhere remains a matter of significant scientific controversy. The earliest fossils of recognizable *Homo sapiens* were found in Ethiopia and are about 200,000 years old.*

*The “out of Africa” theory says that around 60,000 years ago, *Homo sapiens* dispersed across Eurasia, where they met and eventually replaced other human ancestors like Neanderthals. However, that theory has been challenged by evidence of migrations from Africa to Eurasia*

120,000 years ago. Either way, early humans are thought to have migrated to Asia either across a strait that lies between the Horn of Africa and what is now Yemen, or via the Sinai Peninsula.

After spreading to southeast Asia, early humans are thought to have migrated to Australia, which shared a landmass with New Guinea at the time, then to Europe, then to the Americas. Those migrations were likely driven by climate, food availability, and other environmental factors.

Follow-up question [single-choice question, display right after the text on the same screen]:

- “According to the information provided above, which continent are humans generally believed to have migrated to after Asia?” (Europe, Australia, North America, South America)

[Responses to the question will not be used to screen or remove any respondents.]

[Placebo group 2 (commonly used and known arguments in favor of immigration)]

Why We Should Welcome Immigrants

Some people argue that immigration is bad for America. They claim that immigrants compete with natives for scarce jobs and resources, drive down wages, commit more crimes, and undermine our national identity. They advocate for building more walls, deportations, and stricter regulations.

But research shows that immigration is actually good. *Immigrants fill the jobs that native-born workers do not want or cannot do.* They are essential in sectors such as agriculture, construction, and healthcare. They can also be innovators, start new businesses, and contribute to our economy.

Most Americans recognize that others should be treated humanely regardless of their immigration status and other circumstances of birth. Immigrants often escape from harsh situations in their home countries. They have a legal right to seek asylum in America. We should not deny them entry or force them to leave. *We need to let immigrants in because it is the right thing to do.*

Immigrants deserve our respect and compassion. They are not criminals, terrorists, or invaders. They are human beings who seek a better life for their families. They are not a threat, but an opportunity. *We should reject hate and welcome people who want to join our country.*

Follow-up question [multiple-choice question, display right after the text on the same screen before the next button, make “None of the above” an exclusive option]:

- “According to the information provided above, why should Americans welcome immigrants?” (They fill jobs that natives do not want, They have a legal right to seek asylum, None of the above)

[Responses to the question will not be used to screen or remove any respondents.]

[Placebo group 3 (information about national benefits of a different policy / healthcare)]

How Reducing Healthcare Costs Can Benefit America Now

Americans pay too much for healthcare, especially the sick and disabled. Americans spend more than people in other rich countries, but has worse health and shorter lives. Lowering healthcare costs benefits everyone. It can free up money for other things, such as education and infrastructure. It can also boost American businesses and workers, and make American families happier.

There are several ways to reduce healthcare costs such as encouraging more high-value care, competition and innovation. High-value care means providing effective and patient-centered services at low costs. For example, we can avoid unnecessary tests that do not improve outcomes. We can also increase the availability of generic drugs to reduce prescription costs and adopt new technologies such as telehealth to improve convenience.

High healthcare costs harm America in many ways. They reduce our resources for other public goods, increase our taxes and debt, slow down our economy, and make life harder and unfair for us. They also damage our health and shorten our lives.

Reducing healthcare costs will help many Americans. It is possible. Many experts agree on how to do it. There are many examples of how it works from different places. What we need now is the courage and support to do it now.

Follow-up question [multiple-choice question, display right after the text on the same screen before the next button, make “None of the above” an exclusive option]:

- “According to the information provided above, how can the US government reduce healthcare costs?” (Allow more competition, Encourage innovation, None of the above)

[Placebo group 4 (information about national benefits of a different policy / housing)]

How Building More Housing Can Benefit America Now

Zoning regulations are government rules that control how land can be used. They protect the public from harmful land uses such as causing pollution or congestion. But they can also limit the amount and type of housing that can be built, making it harder for people to find a place to live.

Some people oppose making it legal to build more housing because they are concerned about how new development can impact their neighborhood. There are valid reasons to disagree, but we should also consider the benefits of building more housing for the country and its citizens.

Building more housing can help address the country’s housing crisis and boost the economy. It can increase the supply and lower the prices of homes. It can also boost the economy by creating jobs and generating tax revenue. If we do not allow more construction, the country’s most desirable areas will never be accessible for people from all backgrounds and income levels.

Streamlining our convoluted housing regulations to allow more construction is essential for the future prosperity of the United States and its citizens. It can help address some of the most urgent challenges facing the country, such as the housing affordability crisis, the economic slowdown, and the deterioration of life quality.

Follow-up question [multiple-choice question, display right after the text on the same screen before the next button, make “None of the above” an exclusive option]:

- “According to the information provided above, how can allowing more housing benefit average Americans?” (Reducing housing prices, Create Jobs, None of the above)

[Control group will not be exposed to any text.]

[page break]

Post-treatment outcomes

[Include a preamble:] “The next questions ask for your opinion on the importance of various government policies. The answers will help us learn what issues people across the country prioritize when they think about politics.”

Housing issue importance [single-choice question, randomly flip the order of choices and keep that order for other similar questions]:

- “In your opinion, how important is housing compared to other issues facing the United States?” (One of the least important issues, Less important than other issues, More important than other issues, One of the most important issues)
- “How important are housing issues to you personally?” (Not at all important, Not too important, Somewhat important, Very important)
[these exploratory items are included for the purposes of avoiding priming effects of asking only about immigration and will not be used as outcome for hypothesis testing]

Healthcare issue importance [single-choice question, randomly flip the order of choices]:

- “In your opinion, how important is healthcare compared to other issues facing the United States?” (One of the least important issues, Less important than other issues, More important than other issues, One of the most important issues)
- “How important are healthcare issues to you personally?” (Not at all important, Not too important, Somewhat important, Very important)
[these exploratory items are included for the purposes of avoiding priming effects of asking only about immigration and will not be used as outcome for hypothesis testing]

Immigration issue importance [single-choice question, randomly flip the order of choices, force responses]:

- “In your opinion, how important is immigration compared to other issues facing the United States?” (One of the least important issues, Less important than other issues, More important than other issues, One of the most important issues)
- “How important are immigration issues to you personally?” (Not at all important, Not too important, Somewhat important, Very important)
- “How strongly do you feel about immigration issues?” (Not at all strongly, Not too strongly, Somewhat strongly, Very strongly)
[0-1 index calculated as the average of the preceding items recorded to vary from 0 to 1]

[page break]

Immigration subissue importance of flows relative to stocks [multiple-choice questions, randomize the order of the 13 listed response options except for the last “other” option, force responses]:

- “Immigration policy is a broad area with many nuanced disagreements about what government should do. Regardless of your opinion on any of the following immigration issues facing the United States at the moment, which ones do you think are the most important to get addressed? Please select up to 3 issues.”

- [*Flows:*] Allowed number of immigrants each year; Availability of temporary work visas; Skill and English requirements for new immigrants; Time and difficulty of acquiring US citizenship
- [*Stocks:*] Legal status of children brought here illegally; Immigrants' access to government services and benefits; Treatment of immigrants by natives; Immigrants' ability to bring their relatives to the US
- [*Enforcement:*] Wall construction along the US-Mexico border; Illegal immigration and deportations; Red tape and delays in processing immigration forms; The process of applying for asylum in the US
- Other
[0-1 index calculated as the average number of mentioned *flows-related* items minus the number of mentioned *stocks-related* items]

[page break]

Immigration preferences (post-treatment repeated measures) [single-choice questions, randomly flip the order of choices, force responses]:

- “Do you think the number of immigrants from foreign countries who are permitted to come to the United States to live should be increased or decreased?” (Increased a lot, Increased a little, Decreased a little, Decreased a lot)
- “Do you think it should be easier or harder for foreigners to immigrate to the United States legally than it is currently?” (Much easier, Slightly easier, Slightly harder, Much harder)
- “Do you think US laws regarding legal immigration should be relaxed or tightened?” (Relaxed a lot, Relaxed a little, Tightened a little, Tightened a lot)
[0-1 index calculated as the average of three items recorded to vary from 0 (the most anti-immigration) to 1 (the most pro-immigration option)]

[page break]

Immigration issue importance (quasi-behavioral manifestations) [single-choice question, randomly flip the order of choices]:

- “Would you be willing to sign a petition sharing your views with Members of Congress that it should be [easier/harder, depending on their previous answer to the preference question] for foreigners to immigrate to the United States legally than it is currently?” (Yes, No)
- [Include a follow-up debrief prompt: “Thank you for your response about signing a petition. Please note that this was just a survey question and you will not be asked to sign any actual petition or share your personal information with anyone.”]

[page break]

Manipulation checks [single-choice question, randomly flip the order of choices]:

- “Regardless of your personal opinion on immigration issues, do you agree or disagree with the following factual statements?” (Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly disagree)
 - “The average US citizen would be better off if a larger number of foreign workers were legally allowed to enter the US each year.”
 - “Harsh restrictions on legal immigration can be harmful to American citizens.”
 - “Increasing legal immigration can help solve other important problems the US is facing right now.”

[Manipulation check will be used to validate the mechanism behind the hypothesized treatment effect (i.e., by changing people’s beliefs about immigration’s benefits and the costs of restrictions to the United States).]

[Importantly, manipulation check asks the respondents about their empirical beliefs about the effects of increasing immigration rather their preference regarding particular policies.]

[Manipulation check will not be used to screen or remove any respondents.]

Appendix C: Power Analysis

The proposed sample size of the survey experiment ($N = 2700$) is determined conservatively based on having adequate statistical power ($>90\%$) to detect a small effect ($d = 0.2$ or 0.04 of the 0-1 index scales) for H1 and H2 of providing information on immigration issue or subissue importance indices at $\alpha = 0.05$ among the relevant subgroup of pro-immigration respondents ($N > 900$, assuming the relevant subgroup size of 33% as in the latest representative Gallup benchmark data and the issue/subissue importance index mean of 0.5/0.4 with the standard deviation of 0.2 in the control group as in the pilot study). For the latest Gallup immigration summary, see <https://news.gallup.com/poll/1660/immigration.aspx>. For an estimated statistical power for H1 and H2 under somewhat more or less conservative scenarios regarding the effective sample size and the effect size in a simulated data and analysis using *DeclareDesign* in R, see Figure C1.

For H3, this will have 90% power to detect an effect size of 10 percentage points given the baseline of 30%. For H4, the size of the rest of the sample ($N = 1800$) is expected to have $>99\%$ power to detect a small effect of $d = 0.2$ (assuming the relevant subgroup size of 66%). For H5, given the pre-post design and the use of the full sample, it should have $>99\%$ power to detect a very small effect ($d = 0.15$) (assuming the preference index mean of 0.5 with the standard deviation of 0.2 in the pre-treatment control).

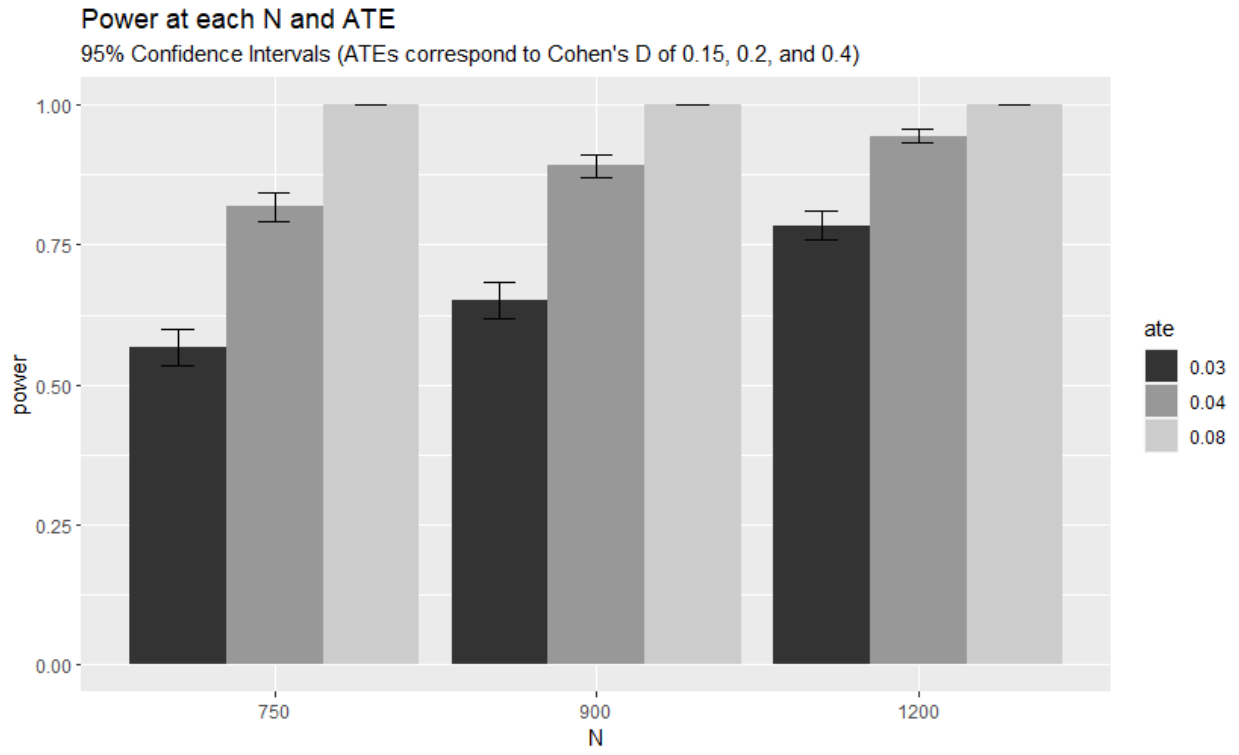


Figure C1: Simulation of statistical power under various more or less conservative scenarios for H1 and H2

Appendix D: Adherence to the Principles and Guidance for Human Subjects Research

The survey experiment was received full IRB approval. The data collection was funded by the Russell Sage Foundation. Participants were recruited via University of Southern California's Understanding America Study (UAS). The UAS manages relationships with their respondents and handles incentives to them directly as a part of their online survey panel in line with the guidelines of the University of Southern California. Before entering the survey, participants first completed a consent form that included the researcher name and affiliation, the general purpose of the research, an explanation of the survey (including length, the costs and benefits of participation, and contact information for the IRB). They were also informed that no identifying information would be collected, and that they were able to opt out of the research at any time. The project did not involve any deception, and no identifying information about the participants was collected. The project did not intervene in any political processes.

Appendix E: Selection and Analysis of Immigration News Articles

For a related project, I analyzed the arguments used in favor or against immigration across mainstream US news media in 2011-2019. The data collection process was structured as follows:

- To source relevant articles, I used NewsBank. My search was refined to articles mentioning immigration or immigrant* in the title or first paragraph from 2010-2019 among the following left-leaning and right-leaning mainstream US outlets: The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today, Fox News, Fox News Opinion, and The New York Post (alongside an equal number of ideologically similar non-US outlets for comparison).
- I then downloaded a random selection of 20 (immigration) articles from each outlet and manually coded them based on several relevant criteria with the help of research assistants.
- For the collected corpus of over 100 US articles, I classified them based on their stance and arguments. Criteria included the general position (pro- or anti-immigration, neutral or ambivalent), policy relevance (yes or no), thematic focus (stocks, flows, enforcement), and argumentation type (sociotropic or humanitarian, material or symbolic).
- According to the basic descriptive analysis, the majority of articles in the sample could be classified as pro-immigration (54%). The vast majority also focused on existing immigrant stocks (74%) and used humanitarian and symbolic arguments (81%).
- Pro-immigration articles were more likely to focus on stocks and use humanitarian arguments than anti-immigration articles.

The news data and analyses are available upon request.