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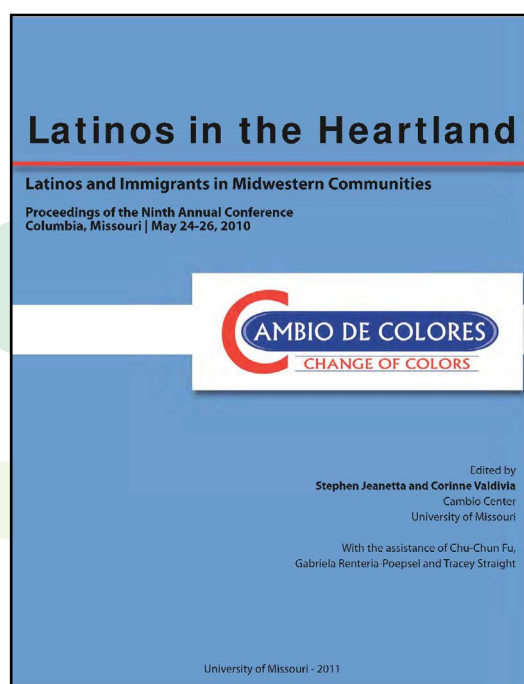
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Acculturation, Context of Reception and Capitals Affecting Economic
Integration of Latino Newcomers to the Midwest in 2009

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Abstract

Latino immigration to rural areas of the Midwest increased during the 1990s. Through the period 2008-2009 a household survey was conducted in three regions of the Midwest experiencing distinct labor pull factors. The questionnaire was developed using a livelihoods strategies framework. This framework acknowledges the impact of economic variables, as well as social-cultural factors, due to the characteristics of the newcomers, Latino households, which often are foreign born. Unique characteristics of this ethnic group, foreign born, of a rural origin, with lack of English ability, and cultural norms of reciprocity and informal networks, are some of the factors why the sustainable livelihoods framework can contribute to our understanding of what makes it possible for Latinos to settle and integrate. A proxy for the ability to integrate is the income earnings from employment in the community. A semi-log OLS model is specified to measure the effect of capitals, acculturation, and subjective measure of community climate on Latino newcomers' income earnings. Income earnings are used as a proxy for economic accumulation for the dependent variable. A logarithm of wages of individual i is regressed on a vector of capitals of individuals X_i and a vector of perceptions of community characteristics Z_t hypothesized to affect the ability of a Latino immigrant to generate income in three regions. The inverse Mill's ratio $\hat{\lambda}$ is included to account for selection bias. Thus, the estimations is: $L(\text{wage}) = \beta X_i + \alpha Z_t + \lambda(c\pi) + \varepsilon$ where $I=1,2 \dots n$ and $t = 1,2,3$. Here, the β and α are vectors of unknown parameters; and ε represents the error term. X vector includes capitals; three acculturation measures; cultural identity; legal status and individual characteristics. The Z vector includes social networks and a community climate proxy. Data for this study includes three regions of Missouri, obtained from a household survey of 460 Latino/a individuals in non-urban areas of Missouri, collected in 2009. Previous study shows that most Latino immigrants move in search of work, and mobility has a negative impact on foreign-born Latino's income. Thus, mobility is hypothesized to have a negative impact on the income of those Latinos that are not properly documented, given that they are more likely to be foreign born. A composite measure of the social capital is hypothesized to have a positive effect on earnings. Preliminary study shows that integration and assimilation categories of acculturation are positively correlated with well-being; therefore these are hypothesized to affect income positively. We expect context of reception to have a negative effect on earnings, social capital to have a positive effect, education is expected to have a positive effect on earnings, and acculturation (bicultural and assimilation) a positive effect. Gender is expected to have a negative effect on income earnings. The results are expected to influence our understanding of how assets and community context, acculturation and agency influence economic integration of Latinos in their community. This study is also expected to inform the public debate and current policy aimed at immigrants in general.

Keywords: Latino integration, integration factors, Latino acculturation

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► The Role of Acculturation, Context of Reception and Capitals Affecting Economic Integration of Latino Newcomers to the Midwest in 2009

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Introduction

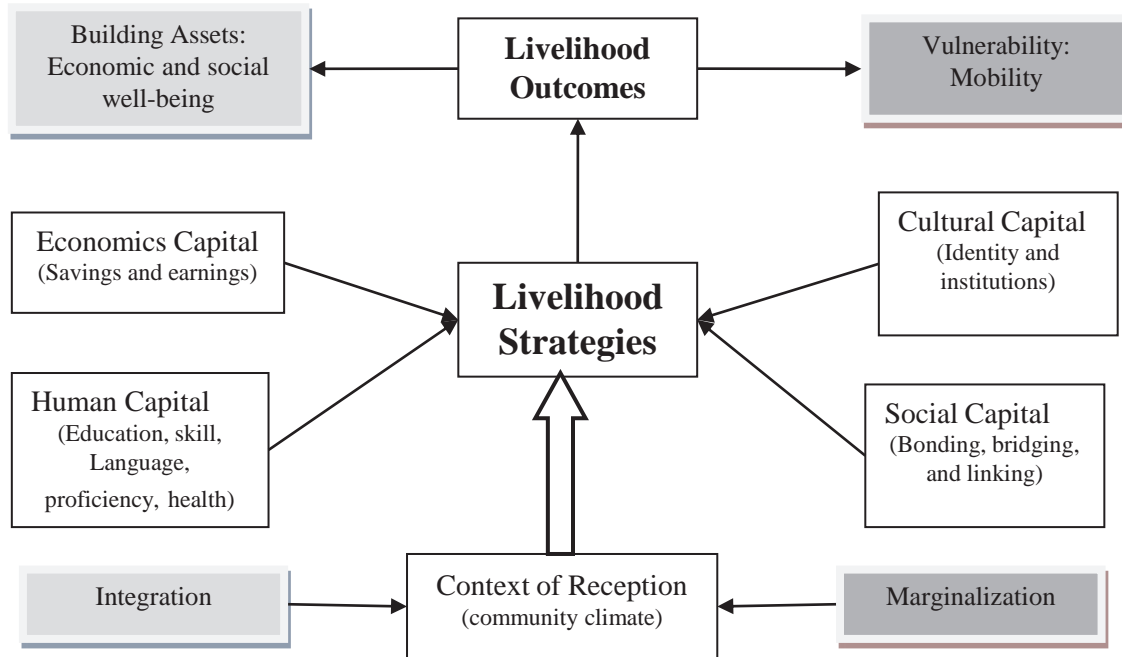
Latino immigration to rural areas of the Midwest increased during the 1990s. Most of these changes in migration patterns have been attributed to the high demands for labor in mostly manufacturing and food processing companies. Alternatively, Latino immigration to the rural areas have been credited to the alleviation of decades of population decline, and contributed to the economic vigor of rural communities by increasing the economic activity and introducing indirect and induced demand for goods. We hypothesize that having an understanding of the factors that influence the integration of newcomers is crucial for the process of well-being and the sustainability of rural communities. This paper assesses the impact that acculturation, context of reception, selected demographic characteristics, and specific capitals have on income earnings of Latino immigrants in rural areas of Missouri.

In developing the hypotheses for this study, the impacts of independent variables on the dependent variables, we have followed the postulates of the literature. Previous studies have found that Latino immigrants move in search of work (Dozi & Valdivia, 2006) and that this mobility has a negative effect on income earnings of those Latinos that were born outside of the U.S.A. The context of reception variable has been found to have a negative effect on income earnings of Latino immigrants in rural areas of Missouri. Additional variables have been found to have the following impacts: social capital, education, and acculturation have positive effects on earnings of Latino immigrants, while being a female has a negative effect on income earnings in rural areas of Missouri.

Data and Theoretical Framework

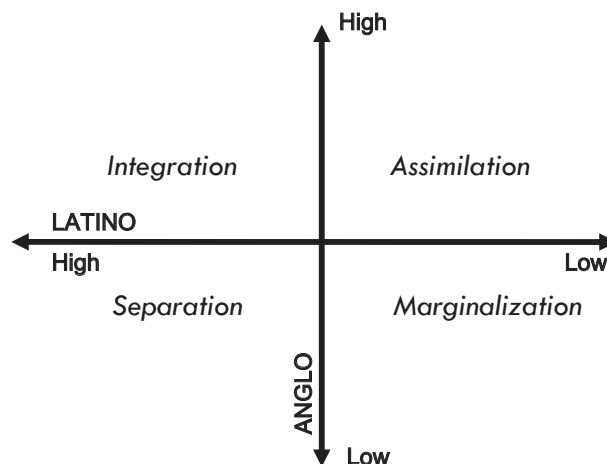
Through the period 2008-2009 a household survey was conducted in three regions of the Midwest experiencing distinct labor pull factors. A questionnaire was developed using a livelihoods strategies framework (see Figure 1). This framework acknowledges the impact of economic variables, as well as social-cultural factors, due to the characteristics of the newcomers, Latino households, which often are foreign born. Unique characteristics of this ethnic group— foreign born, of a rural origin, with lack of English ability, and cultural norms of reciprocity and informal networks— are some of the factors why the sustainable livelihoods framework can contribute to our understanding of what makes it possible for Latinos to settle and integrate. A proxy for the ability to integrate is the income earnings from employment in the community.

Figure 1. The Strengths-based Model Framework.



One of the novel elements of this research is the inclusion of acculturation in Latino newcomers to the local culture. Acculturation is the process by which individuals adjust to people and cultures they meet and the resulting influences on their livelihood. The process of acculturation is multidimensional, necessarily resulting in four types of acculturation: integration, assimilation, separation and marginalization; these are represented in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Berry's Multidimensional Acculturation Process.



In relation to Latinos, these are subdivided into Anglo and Latino acculturation. When an individual is integrated if he has high values in both acculturations, ; high Anglo and low Latino results in assimilation; high Latino and low Anglo results in separation; and finally, low of both results in marginalization.

Empirical Approach

The empirical model used in order to estimate the impact of context and social capital on household's income earnings is specified as follows:

$$(1) H_i = \beta SC + \alpha Z + \gamma X + \varepsilon$$

In this empirical model H_i is income earnings of household i ; SC_i is an index of social capital of householder i ; Z_i is a vector of household i characteristics; and X_j is a vector representing community j climate characteristics as perceived by the Latino householder; and ε is the error term. Even though social capital is represented in the empirical equation as an index, this was only done for the ease of representation. The actual approach followed here was to identify the necessary variables and include these directly in the estimations. Social capital has been separated into different types. This was done in order to help in the process of identifying which type of social capital has more influence on well-being. The types used here are: (a) bonding; (b) bridging; and (c) linking. Each of these was assessed by asking questions related to each concept. Structurally this could be represented as follows:

$$(2) SC_i = K\alpha + v \quad i = \text{bonding, bridging, linking}$$

In this representation, K is a vector of characteristics influencing householder's use of social network; and α is a vector of unknown coefficients; and v is associated random error. One of the issues arising with this type of specification is the possible existence of multicollinearity. To address this issue, this research takes the approach of using the independent variables of each type of social network directly into the main equation, as exposed earlier. Repeated variables are used only once in order to remove redundancy. Plus, the theory helps differentiate the impact of each dependent variable on social network by using weights on specific variables; these are specified next. Thus, the final specification is as follows:

$$(3) H_i = \beta K + \alpha (ZK) + \gamma X + (\varepsilon + v)$$

In this specification, the vector K is split into two because there are demographic characteristics that influence household income and social capital use on the one side; and there are factors that are specific to social capital use on the other side. Data for this study includes 3 regions of Missouri, obtained from a household survey of 460 Latino/a individuals in non-urban areas of Missouri, collected in 2009.

As mentioned above, previous study shows that Latino immigrants move in search of work mostly; and mobility has a negative impact on foreign-born Latinos' income. Thus, mobility is hypothesized to have a negative impact on the income of those Latinos that are not properly documented, given that they are more likely to be foreign born. A composite measure of the social capital is hypothesized to have a positive effect on earnings. Preliminary study shows that integration and assimilation categories of acculturation are positively correlated with well-being; therefore these are hypothesized to affect income positively. We expect context of reception to have a negative effect on earnings, social capital to have a

positive effect, education is expected to have a positive effect on earnings, and acculturation (bicultural and assimilation) a positive effect. Gender is expected to have a negative effect on income earnings.

Table 1. Variables used in the OLS estimation

Household income	Household income considering every member's contribution
Age	Age; measured in years
Gender	Gender; 1 = Male and 2 = Female (females modeled)
Education	Educational level; measured in years spent in school
Bicultural/integrated	A measure of acculturation; assessed by high levels of Anglo and Latin acculturation
Anglo Acculturation	Measures the Latinos affinity with local Anglo culture
Latin Acculturation	Measures the Latinos affinity with own culture
Socio-Environment	Assesses Latinos perceived context of reception in relation to the community; average of 12 items
Racism and Discrimination	Assesses Latinos perceived context of reception in relation to discrimination and racism context; average of 7 items.
Language Pressure	Assesses Latinos perceived context of reception in relation to English language context; average of 6 items.
Bonding	Social capital strong ties; measured by those householders who have used their strong ties for personal gain;
Bridging	Social capital weak ties; measured by those householders who have used their weak ties for personal gain;
Linking	Social capital upward ties; measured by those householders who have used their upward ties for personal gain;
Mobility	Those householders have moved; assessed by the number of times a householder has moved within the US.
Cultural Capital	Assess Latinos attachment to own culture; average of 6 items
IMR	Inverse Mill's Ratio; introduced to correct for selectivity bias.

Results and Discussion

The results are expected to influence our understanding of how assets and community context, acculturation and agency influence economic integration of Latinos in their community. As exposed above, this study used Ordinary Least Square (OLS) regression in order to estimate these impacts. The results of the analysis are presented in table 2 below. From the results, could be seen that age, bicultural, social capital (both bonding and bridging), and Anglo-American acculturation had a significant positive impact on income earnings and thus economic integration in these communities. Alternatively, mobility, being female, racism and discrimination context of reception had a negative significant impact on income earnings.

Table 2. Results of the empirical estimation

Variables	Unstandardized coefficients		Std. coeff.	T	Sig..
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	3.877	1.005		3.859	.001
Age	.027	.008	.169	3.523	.001**
Bicultural	.346	.199	.089	1.738	.081**
Cultural capital	.005	.017	.013	.277	.782
Context: socio environmental	-.033	.124	-.013	-.268	.789
Context: racism and discrim.	-.090	.051	-.065	-1.764	.076*
Context: language pressures	-.055	.084	-.040	-.661	.509
Linking social capital	.196	.204	.056	.960	.338
Bridging social capital	.200	.074	.058	2.703	.029**
Bonding social capital	.409	.207	.117	1.974	.049**
Latino acculturation	.110	.185	.049	.597	.551
Anglo acculturation	.710	.187	.181	3.803	.001**
Mobility	-.082	.044	-.047	-1.864	.067*
Educational level	.107	.162	-.031	.663	.508
Being female	-.089	.029	-.174	-3.111	.002**
IMR	.041	.050	.038	.830	.407

$F = 5.503$; Sig. <001 ; $N = 444$; $Adj R^2 = .120$; **Sig at 5%; * Sig at 10%

The results also suggest that social networks might facilitate economic integration by providing newcomers with temporary support for extended job search. That is, if a newcomer has lost his/her job network members might provide shelter and help with food while an individual looks for work.

Conclusions

This study was carried out in order to estimate the impact of acculturation and context of reception on economic integration as proxied by income earnings of a household while controlling for specific demographic variables. It was observed that age, bicultural, social capital, and Anglo-American acculturation had a significant positive impact on income earnings and mobility, being female, racism and discrimination context of reception had a negative significant impact on income earnings.

The fact that Anglo acculturation was significant points to the importance that Latino newcomers place on being part of the community they have just moved into. The impact of racism and discrimination

context of reception points to the fact that there are economic gains to be had when prejudice towards people of different cultures is addressed. Addressing prejudice in the community ends up facilitating economic integration of these people of different cultures. The study has also suggested that social networks are considered as alternative sources of access to resources by Latinos. It was suggested that policy makers and community members should take into account the economic impacts of these mechanisms if they are to improve economic integration of Latino newcomers.

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► Promotoras de Salud: A Health Literacy Approach to Improving Immigrant Access to Health Care

Stephen Jeanetta and Jamie Christianson

Introduction

Latino newcomers face a myriad of health care challenges when settling in the Midwest. Issues often include difficulty understanding how the health systems function and knowing where to go for health services, lack of adequate insurance, difficulty speaking English, and little understanding of health issues such as diabetes, HIV and dental care. The Promotoras de Salud program at Centro Latino de Salud y Educacion, in Columbia, Missouri, was implemented in 2008 to help the burgeoning number of Latino newcomers to mid-Missouri better understand and address the issues affecting their health and improve their overall health literacy.

According to Health Literacy Missouri, a nonprofit organization established to improve the health literacy of Missourians, health literacy means “the ability to make good health decisions in everyday life” (HLM, 2010). The Promotoras de Salud project focuses on improving the capacity of Latino newcomers to mid-Missouri to make better health decisions by establishing a means of connecting newcomers to the information and resources they need to make better decisions. “Promotoras de Salud” (Community Health Workers) is a social intervention model for improving health literacy by developing partnerships between providers of health care services and community members. Promotoras have played the role of the educator, helping people learn how to prevent or manage a health condition (Balcazar, et al, 2009). They have helped people navigate the health system and reduced the barriers they face in accessing treatment (Dohan & Schrag, 2010) by acting as a bridge that connects community members to the resources and information they need to make wise health choices.

The Promotoras de Salud program at Centro Latino primarily serves Latino working class, low-income