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# The Impact of Immigration on National and Supranational Identity

Sarah Hofmeyer  
*University of Northern Iowa*

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Sarah L. Hofmeyer, University of Northern Iowa  
 Dr. John Ishiyama, Ph.D., and Meredith Winn



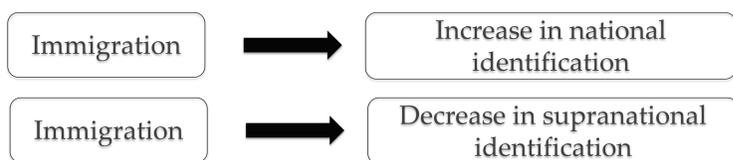
Paresh Nath, The Khaleej Times

## Theory

Identities are a construct that guide the way people interact with the world. They are malleable, and can change over time. People adopt different identities. The nation is an identity that exists because of a shared culture and history.

People's identities can change when they are faced with different culture and ideas, and are forced to evaluate their own identities. The presence of migrants confronts people with an outgroup, leading to greater feelings of ingroup identification within the nation.

Therefore, my theory results in the following:



## Hypotheses

H1: An increase in immigration leads to an increase in national identification.

H2: An increase in immigration leads to an decrease in supranational identification.

## Future Research

Future research could look further into the connection (or lack of) between national and supranational identity, including how they connect/change with each other. Additionally, many respondents reported mixed identities, and future research could look at the order in which they report these identities and differences between these groups, and what that implies for the way identities develop over time.

## Abstract

How does immigration impact national and supranational identity? Current literature does not fully address the relationship between national and supranational identities. Globalization literature indicates that immigration may increase national identification, while immigration literature suggests the opposite. This research further investigates this relationship. Using a logit regression model, I analyze EU countries using the Eurobarometer for citizen's identification alongside immigration levels from the World Bank. My analysis found that as immigration increases, there is an increase in national identification. This holds important real world implications considering the political climate of European countries and the rise of alt-right parties.

## Findings

### Mixed Effects Logit Regression Model: National Identity

Variable	Coefficient	P> z
Migrant Percent	0.0341	0.000***
Homicide (Per 100K)	0.1866	0.000***
Household Financial Status	-0.3568	0.000***
Political Discussion Present	0.438	0.000***
Internet Usage	0.1781	0.000***
Country Cultural Diversity	-1.935	0.000***
Country Unemployment Rate	-0.0273	0.000***

\*\*\*significance level at p<0.001

### Mixed Effects Logit Regression Model: Supranational Identity

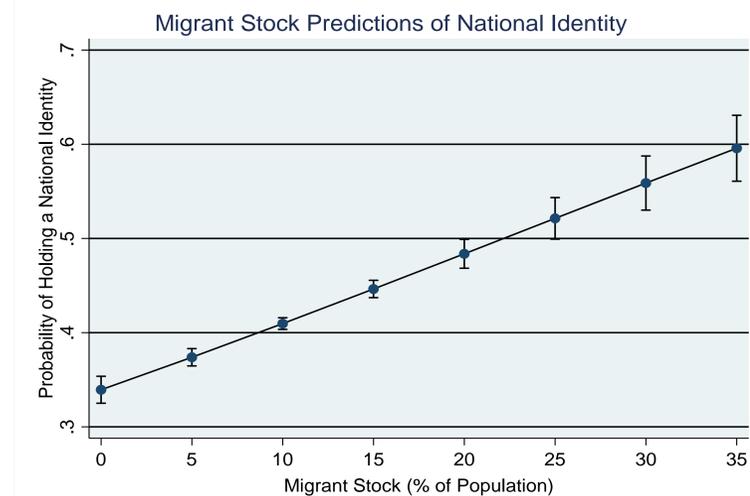
Variable	Coefficient	P> z
Migrant Percent	-.0055	.717
Homicide (Per 100K)	-.2645	.001**
Household Financial Status	.0204	.822
Political Discussion Present	-.1610	.089
Internet Usage	-.1250	.002**
Country Cultural Diversity	3.480	0.000***
Country Unemployment Rate	.0600	0.000***

\*age and gender also controlled

\*\*significance level at <0.001

\*\*\*significance level at p<0.001

## Marginal Effect



## Results and Implications

1. My results support my first hypothesis. As immigration increases, we will see an increase in national identity. According to the odds ratio, migrant stock significantly impacted national identity. This implies that immigration is influential on an individual's likelihood to accept their national identity when faced with other culture and ideas. Other control variables held interesting conclusions: if a respondent was a student, their national identification decreased. Additionally, when a country was more culturally diverse, there was a decrease in national identification. Interestingly, results suggest that as unemployment increases, there is not an increase in national identification.
2. The results did not support my second hypothesis. Immigration did not have a significant effect on supranational identification. Many controls were also not significant, with the exception of homicide, internet usage, cultural diversity, and unemployment of a country. This suggests that the processes that shape supranational identity are different from those that shape national identity.

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