

*Children of Immigrants and the Formation of National Identity*

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For this project we conducted interviews of immigrant children to determine how their perceptions of America and their country of heritage have been shaped by the American public education system and their home rearing. We examine how children of immigrants form their national identity and will pair our findings with the results of a Likert scale survey that examines attitudes toward national ideals and their linguistic links nationalism. We suspect that the children of immigrants have been exposed to a national American identity and national ideals linked to their national heritage. We will perform discourse analysis on the interviews to search for language distinctions such as “we” and “they” when discussing aspects related to nationalism and American identity. This project is important because the way an individual comes to identify within a society is shaped by their exposure to dual or multiple ideologies. Exposure will likely affect their level of inclusion (or exclusion) from that society. As cultural attitudes change over time so do the attitudes and traditions that encapsulate a national identity. With the inclusion of other heritages into American culture it is important to understand the formation of national identities and the role American ideals play in that formation.