



# Predictors of Critical Motivation Amongst Asian Immigrant Adolescents



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## Introduction

- While undocumented, Deferred Actions for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) individuals are directly impacted by federal and state immigration policies, immigrant youth who may not particularly hold these statuses may also be impacted by knowing someone who does hold one of these statuses.
- Immigrants residing in different states can be impacted in varying ways depending on the state's respective immigration policies which can be more inclusive or exclusive. Therefore, evaluating macrosystems are critical to understanding individuals' microsystems.
- There is a lack of research on Asian immigrant youth's critical motivation despite Asian immigrant youth being one of the fastest growing immigration population in the U.S.
- Immigrants' feelings of inequality and injustice could potentially serve as a mediator to understand how Asian immigrant youth's critical motivation develops and evolves.

## Research Question

- How do different state inclusionary and exclusionary immigration policies impact Asian immigrant adolescents' critical motivation through feelings of inequality and injustice?

## Methods

### Sample

- Respondents (n=304) are immigrant-origin adolescents who are first or second-generation immigrants, between 14-18 years old, attending a U.S. high school, and self-identify as Asian. This ethnic-racial group is part of The Immigrant Youth Socialization and Identity Project.

### Measures

- Feelings of inequality and injustice were assessed using the **Trust in American Promise** and **Anger towards Social Injustice Scales**. Each response was coded on a scale of 1 to 5, then averaged by subscale. Subscores ranged from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).
- Critical motivation** was assessed similarly, using a sum of four questions about whether the respondent feels responsible to act on perceived inequality and injustices. Scores ranged from 1 (strongly disagree) to 6 (strongly agree).

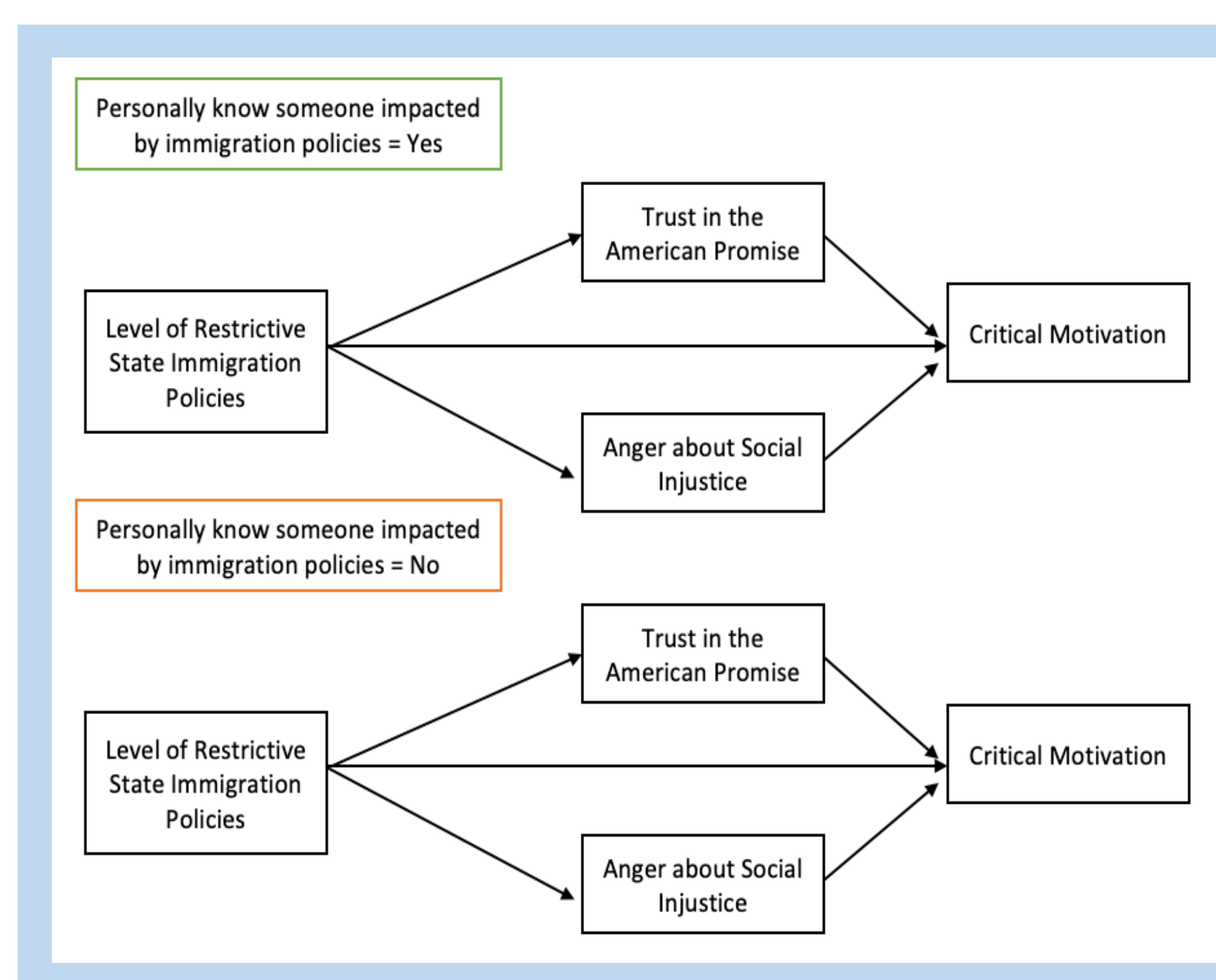
## Preliminary Data Analysis

### Demographics

- 25.3% of respondents are first-generation immigrants
- 57.4% of respondents hold free and reduced lunch status
- Respondents top residences: California (24.4%), New York (10.9%), Texas (6.8%), New Jersey (6.4%), Florida (4.5%)
- Respondents grade distribution: 9th (16.4%), 10th (21.1%), 11th (29.3%), 12th (33.2%)

### Multi-Group Path Analysis

Figure 1. Conceptual model of multi-group path analysis



- Multigroup path analysis will be conducted to assess the indirect relationship between the level of restrictive state immigration policies and critical motivation via anger towards injustice and trust in the American promise. Furthermore, I will examine whether these relationships are moderated by personally knowing someone who is impacted by state-immigration policies.

### Correlation

- A **Pearson correlation test** shows the significance between some of the variables such as Anger about Social Justice and Critical Motivation. **Covariates** of critical motivation (items 6 and 7) are also included (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Correlation Table of Study Variables

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. State-level hostility towards immigrants	1						
2. Knowing an impacted marginalized immigrant	-.094	1					
3. Trust in the American Promise Scale	-.043	.005	1				
4. Anger about Social Justice Scale	-.001	.144*	-.367**	1			
5. ShoCCS Critical Motivation	-.074	.076	-.225**	.452**	1		
6. Immigrant Generation Status	-.132*	-.031	.068	-.068	0.039	1	
7. Age	-.050	.079	-.040	.112	.045	-.065	1

Note. \* p<.05; \*\* p<.01

### Descriptives

- The descriptive statistics for the study variables help us understand the data of each variable group. The **Cronbach's alpha** is also included to show internal consistency where a score above .70 is reliable (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Descriptive Statistics for Study Variables

Scale	n	M	SD	Min	Max	Range	Cronbach's alpha
1. State-level hostility towards immigrants	272	.882	1.23	0	3	3	—
2. Knowing an impacted marginalized immigrant	263	.357	.48	0	1	1	—
3. Trust in the American Promise Scale	300	2.11	.959	1	5	4	.880
4. Anger about Social Justice Scale	302	4.24	.723	1	5	4	.837
5. ShoCCS Critical Motivation	304	19.63	3.136	6	24	18	.738
6. Immigrant Generation Status	304	.7467	.4356	0	1	1	—
7. Age	304	4.47	1.224	2	6	4	—

Note.

## Literature Review & Study Implications

- Many scholars discuss critical consciousness by centralizing the individual and their conscientization; however, Rogers (2021) and Diemer et al. (2006) emphasize the relationship between the macro and microsystem, not merely focusing on the individual's consciousness.
- Traditionally, critical consciousness models follow the pathway of critical reflection, critical motivation, and critical action in an orderly manner; however, I am examining the precursor steps that Asian immigrant adolescents may follow to become critically motivated in society through a niche yet notable pathway.
- As Rogers (2021) emphasizes the importance of centering the macrosystem in human development, this study aims to further examine how to better thread the macro and microsystems of state hostility and critical motivation of an individual. A larger sample size may be required.
- In this study, examining the antecedents of critical motivation through the impact of macrostructures can further enhance the critical consciousness theory and contribute to the literature by contextualizing and complicating the antecedents of critical motivation.