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## Introduction: A Three Study Approach

- ❑ Study 1: Understanding the lay theories students hold that are in favor of immigration.
- ❑ Study 2: Validating the lay theories through the world values survey and measuring support for immigration by lay theory.
- ❑ Study 3: Testing to see the means of acquiring economic growth from immigrants leads to more negative attitudes

## Concepts at Work

- ❑ Neoliberalism: Americans value a meritocracy where hard work, independence, and competition
- ❑ Racism: White Americans have racist and xenophobic views toward non-white immigrants
- ❑ America has deep roots in neoliberalism—the concept that those who work hard deserve more— as well as racism.

## Research Questions

- ❑ Research Questions Being Addressed:
  - Why do Americans support immigration?
  - Does immigrant race and economic status threaten support for immigration?

## Study 1: Priorities in Either Immigrants' Well-being or Diversity and Their Economic Benefit

### Overview

- ❑ Examining Wesleyan University lay theory arguments for Hispanic/Latino immigration
  - 111 undergraduates (49 male, 60 female, 2 non-binary/third gender), Mean age 19.26 (SD = 1.60)
  - 61.3% White-American, 15.3% API-American, 6.3% Hispanic-American/Latino, 6.3% Not Listed, 4.5% African-American/Black, 4.5% Biracial/Multiracial, 0.9% Arab Arab-American/Middle Eastern
- ❑ When asked for reasons to allow Hispanic immigration, the three major lay theories found were:
  1. *Better Life Opportunities*: They can lead better lives
  2. *Diversity*: They will add diversity/culture
  3. *Economic Benefit*: They will improve the economy

### Better Life Opportunities Vs. Economic Benefits

Model	<i>b</i>	SE	$\beta$	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
Xenophobia	-.111	.348	-.048	-.318	.751
Meritocracy	-.176	.150	-.164	-1.168	.246
Cultural Efforts	1.147	.391	.538	2.931	.004
Structural Efforts	-.474	.259	-.270	-1.833	.070
Openness to Diversity	-.987	.333	-.434	-2.963	.004
Political Outlook	.287	.157	.259	1.837	.069
Income	-.003	.077	-.004	-.039	.969

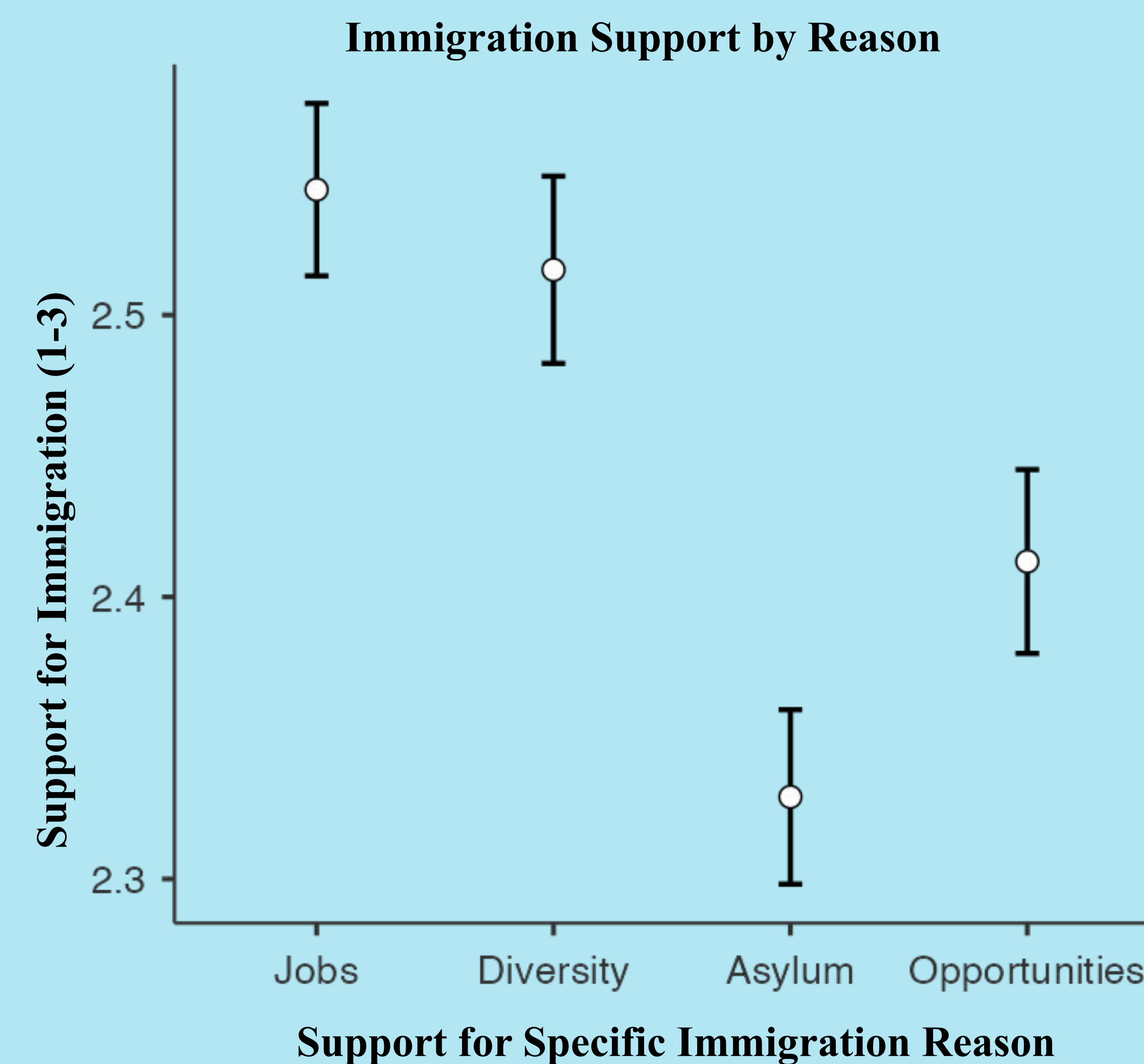
### Study 1 Discussion

- ❑ People that support economic reasons score higher on instrumental support for diversity (exploitative) but not cultural efforts to integrate immigrants (supportive) compared to those support the immigrants seeking better life opportunities

## Study 2: White Americans Support Immigration When it Benefits Them Economically and Culturally

### Overview

- ❑ Using the World Values Survey (2017-21) the second study investigated which factors positively predicted support for immigration.
  - 1702 White Americans (976 Male (57.3%) , 726 female (42.7%)), Mean age 45.6 (SD = 16.7)
- ❑ Repeated Measures ANOVA found statistically significant differences ( $p < .001$ ) between every group except Jobs and Diversity ( $p_{\text{bonferroni}} = 0.435$ )



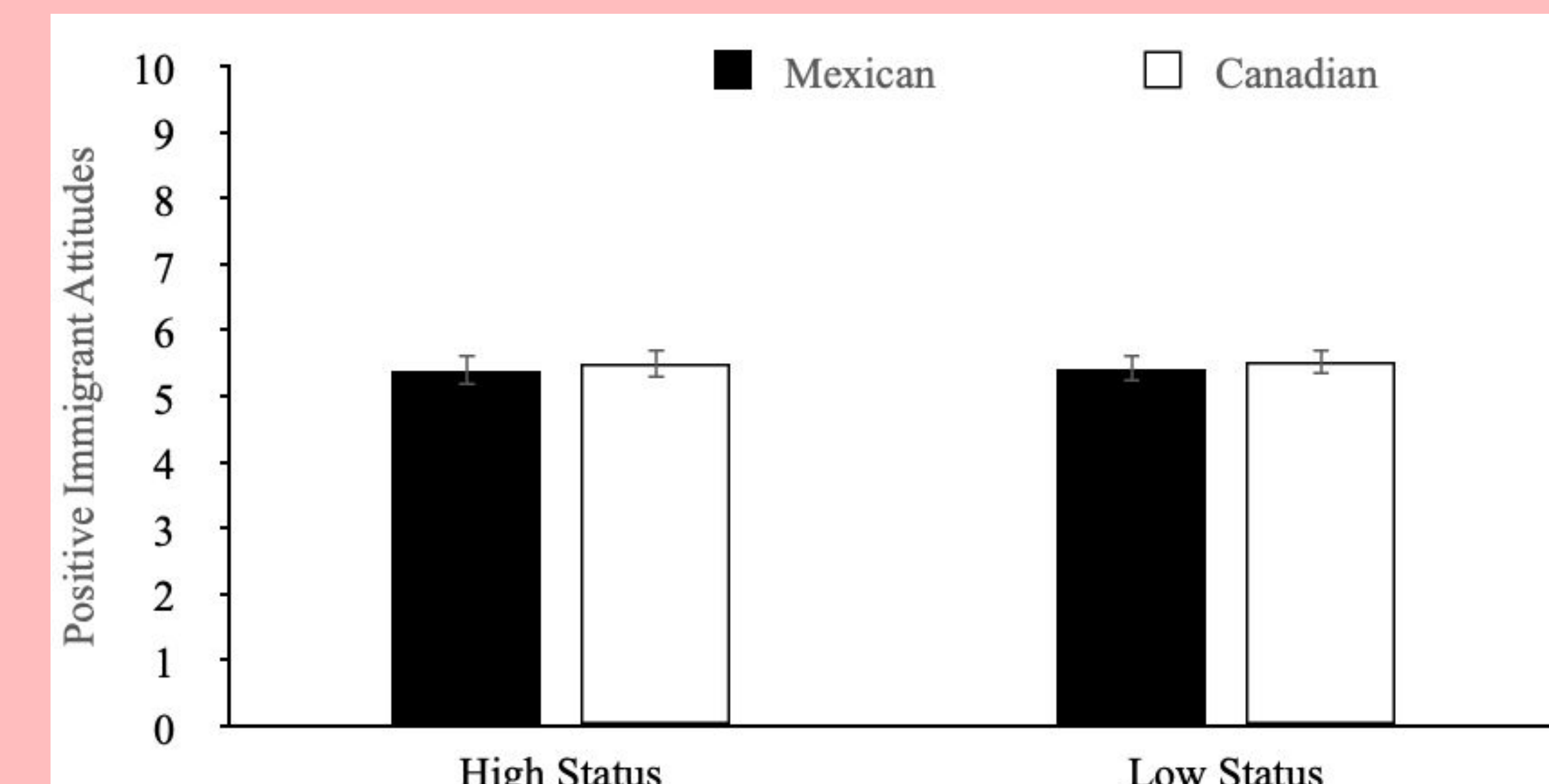
### Study 2 Discussion

- ❑ In this more representative sample, we find that there is more support for immigration for economic and cultural diversity reasons than by asylum and opportunities for immigrants.

## Study 3: Experimentally Threatening White Americans with Racialized Immigration Vignettes

### Overview

- ❑ Experimental 2x2 study on White Americans.
- ❑ Conditions: (Canadian or Mexican immigrants) x (White-Collar or Blue Collar jobs)
  - 264 White Americans (Prolific panel 2024)
  - Mean age 42 (SD = 12.6, min = 19, max = 74)



### Study 3 Discussion

- ❑ ANOVA found no statistically significant difference in mean positive immigration attitudes between participants in different groups ( $p > .05$ )
- ❑ While slight differences between participants assigned to different experimental conditions were observed, they almost never statistically significant
- ❑ Potential limitations / issues:
  - Vignettes did not use sufficiently powerful / emotional language to elicit responses
  - Concepts measured were not highly influenceable
  - Survey length led to fatigue and diminished effects

## Discussion

- ❑ The first two studies validated the lay theories on immigration for economic, diversity, and opportunities and revealed a difference in support for immigration depending on the degree of support for each theory.
- ❑ White support for immigration seems to be focused on the instrumental benefits rather than the benefits for the immigrants.

## Conclusion

- ❑ The purpose of these pilot studies was to inform direction of future studies
  - Based off of our findings, future studies should focus increasing threat of vignettes and increase the focus on measuring temporal feelings
- ❑ Further studies will need to investigate the degree which messages on the benefits of immigration through the economic growth and diversification can influence pro-immigration attitudes