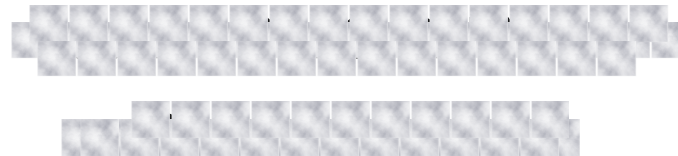


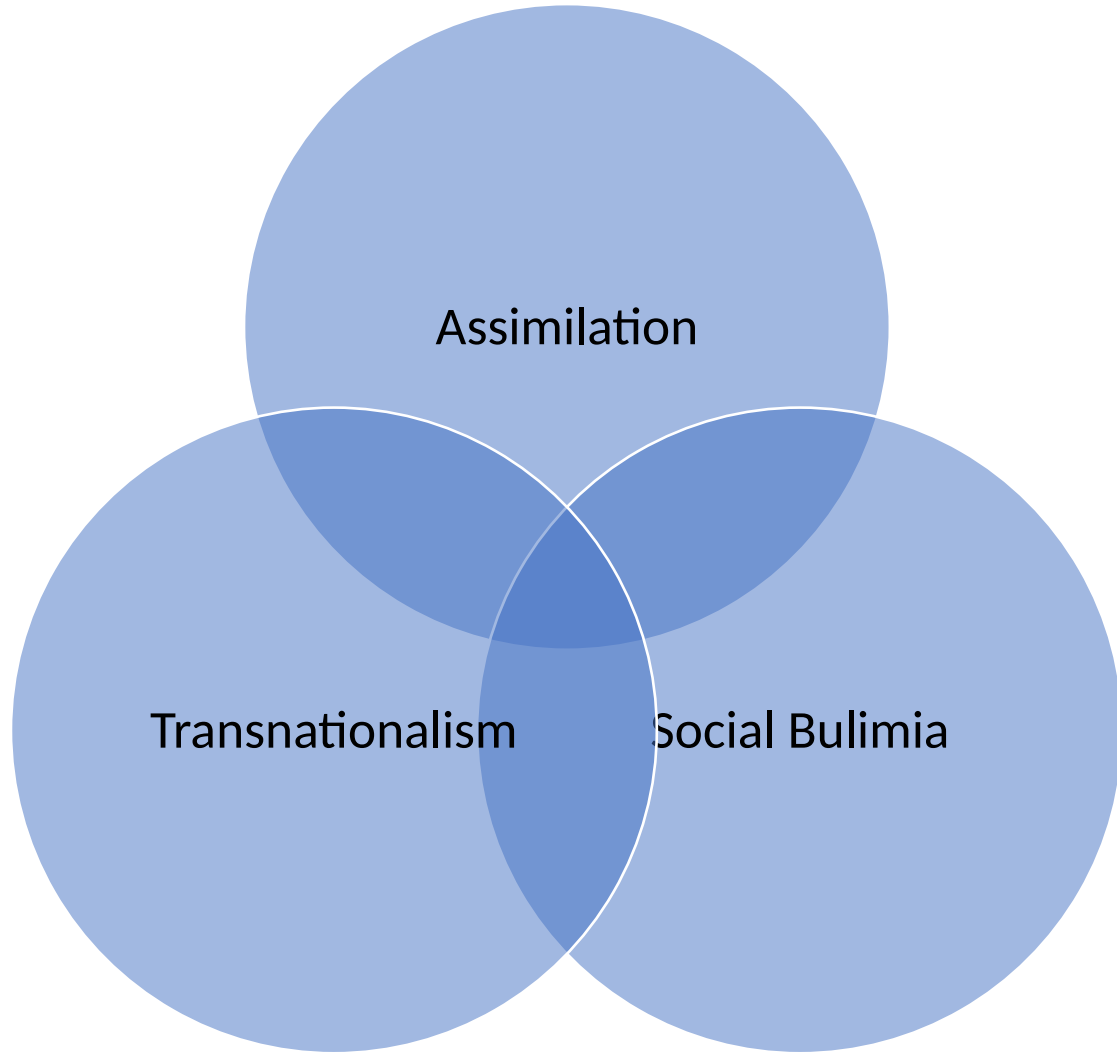
Immigration

Introduction to Sociology



Learning goals

1. Assimilation theory (Alba and Nee, 2005)
 - What is assimilation?
 - Three reasons the US will experience more immigrant assimilation
2. Social bulimia theory (Brotherton and Barrios, 2011)
 - Transnationalism
 - Defining social bulimia
 - Cultural inclusion of the immigrant
 - Structural exclusion of the immigrant
3. Discussion:
 - Why is social bulimia a theory of non-assimilation?
 - How does social bulimia relate to transnationalism?



Assimilation: loss of ethnic identity

Transnationalism: practices and relationships linking migrants and their children with the home country

Social Bulimia: simultaneous cultural inclusion with structural exclusion

What is assimilation?

Alba, Richard & Victor Nee. 2005 *Remaking the American Mainstream: Assimilation and Contemporary Immigration*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

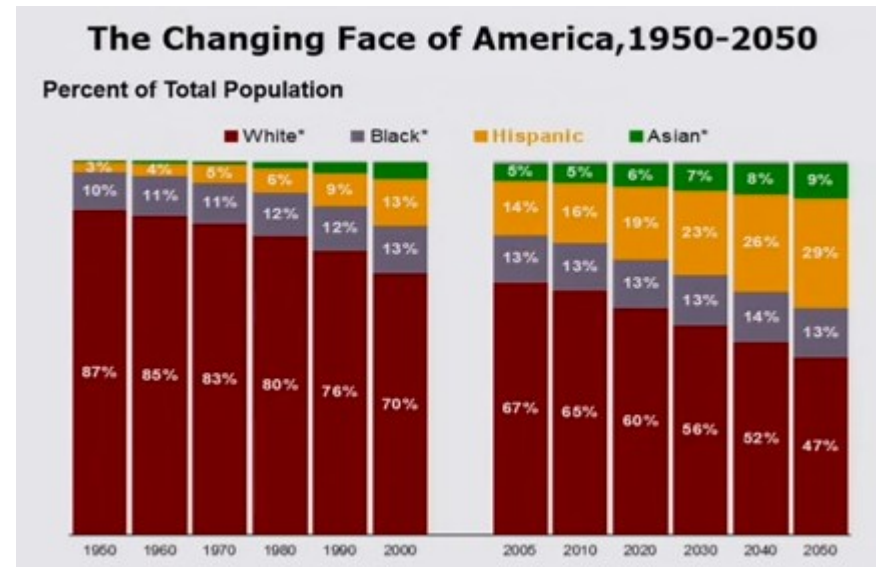
Required pages: 10-11

Suggested pages: 10-16

What is assimilation?

“The Chicago School’s definition of assimilation envisioned a diverse mainstream society in which people of different ethnic/racial origins and cultural heritages evolve a common culture that enables them to sustain a common national existence.”

Alba and Nee remix this definition to adapt for changing demographics



What is assimilation?

Two parts to assimilation theory

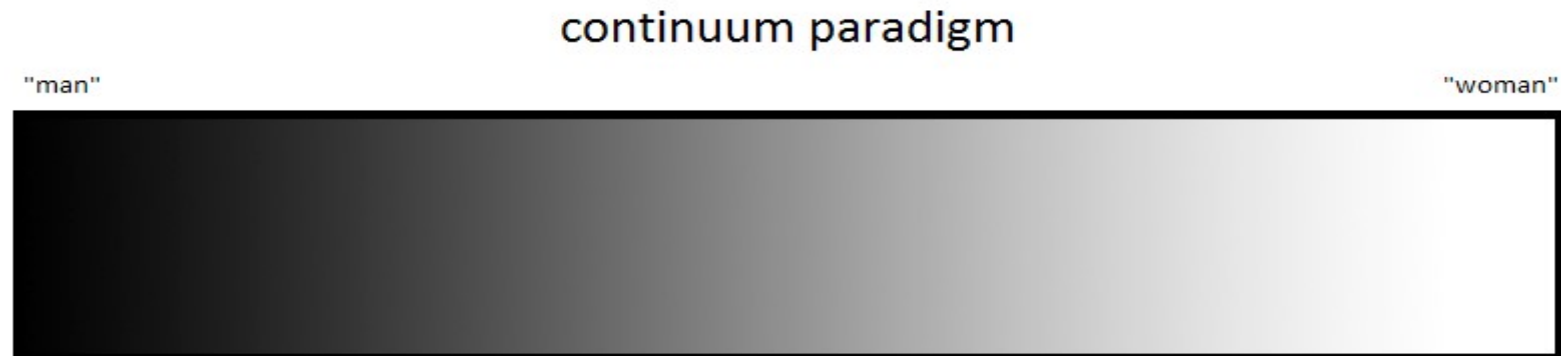
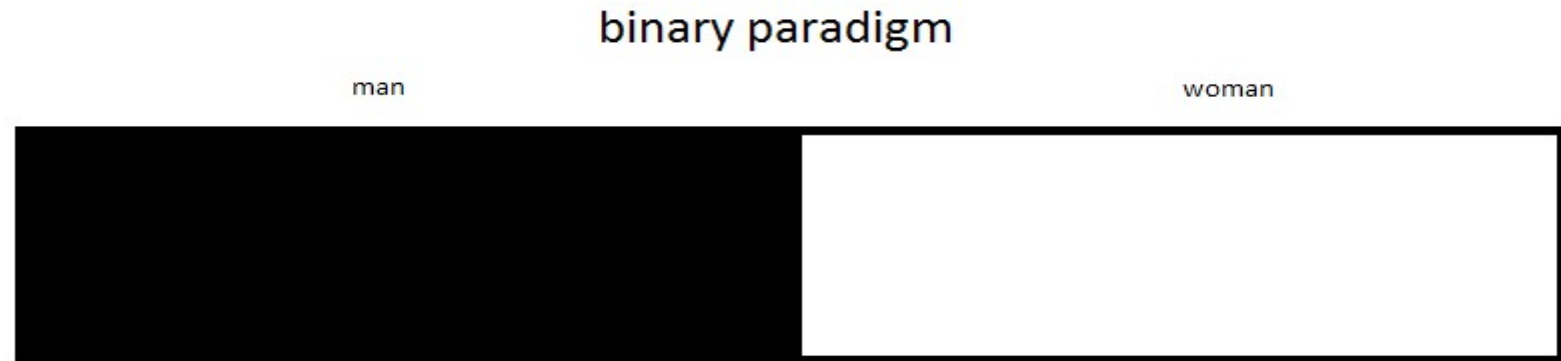
Part one:

assimilation = “the decline of an ethnic distinction and its corollary cultural and social differences”

In other words = assimilation is the process of losing ethnic identity

What is assimilation?

assimilation is a continuum (extent of assimilation vs non-assimilation)
and **not** binary (assimilated vs not assimilated)



What is assimilation?

Examples of assimilation

“15 Minutes of Comedians on Their Immigrant Parents”

Why would children of immigrants becoming comedians be examples of assimilation?

At 36:20 minutes - Congresswoman Rashida Talib – from Palestinian immigrant family, moved to Detroit, father joined United Auto Workers, she became active in civic life and politics in Detroit

And millions and millions of other stories of assimilation... (including my own family and probably yours too)



What is assimilation?

Second part of assimilation theory:

“Our definition of assimilation intentionally allows for the possibility that the nature of the **mainstream into which minority individuals and groups are assimilating is changed in the process**”

What is assimilation?

Mainstream= “that part of the society within which ethnic and racial origins have at most minor impacts on life chances or opportunities.”

Example 1 of mainstream: sports culture



What is assimilation?

Mainstream= “that part of the society within which ethnic and racial origins have at most minor impacts on life chances or opportunities.”

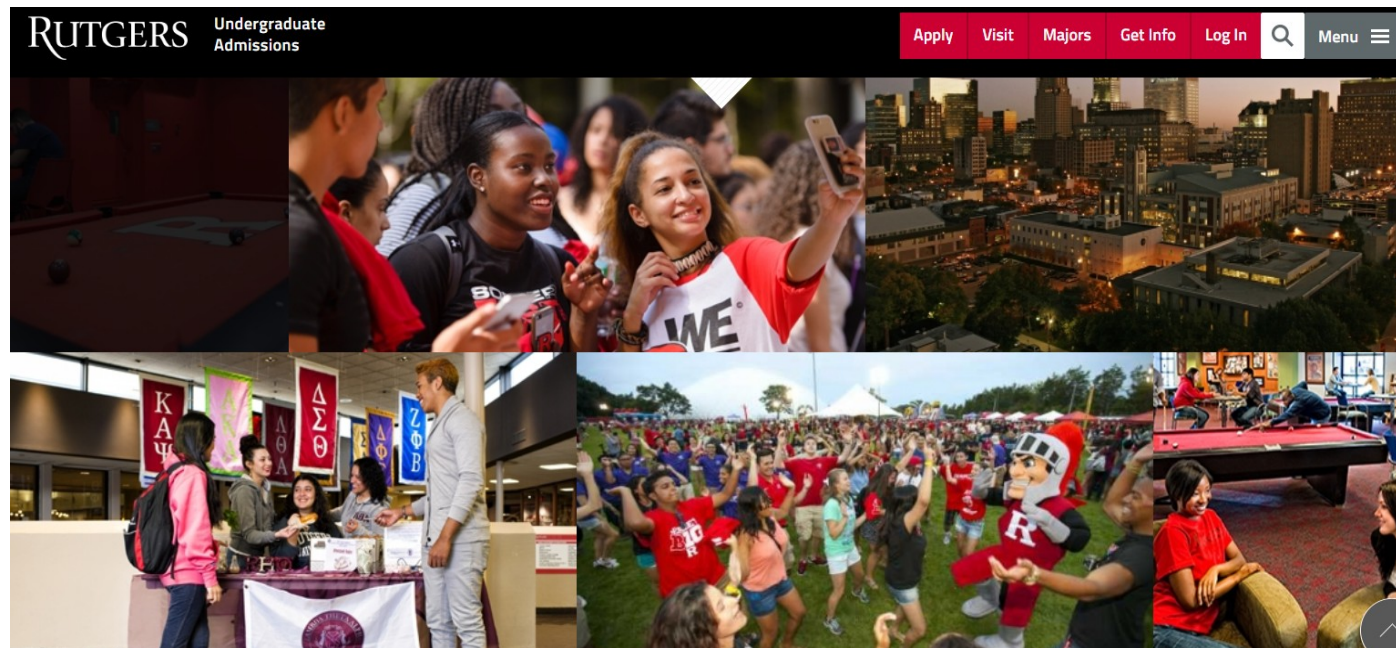
Example 2 of mainstream: consumer culture



What is assimilation?

Mainstream= “that part of the society within which ethnic and racial origins have at most minor impacts on life chances or opportunities.”

Example 3 of mainstream: university culture



What is assimilation?

Second part of assimilation theory:

“Our definition of assimilation intentionally allows for the possibility that the nature of the mainstream into which minority individuals and groups are assimilating **is changed in the process**”

If new immigrants are ethnic and racial minorities, and they assimilate into a racial or ethnic majority (white), then what happens to that majority?

What is assimilation?

Example

despacito – justin bieber, daddy yankee, luis fonzi

Despacito became the first ever Spanish language song to be number one in the charts. How is this bilingual hit song an example of assimilation? How does it represent the notion of **everyone being changed** by assimilation?



We will see more assimilation

- Given demographic trends, the mainstream is likely to evolve in the direction of including members of ethnic and racial groups that were formerly excluded.
- What is mainstream?
- the mainstream is as that part of the society within which ethnic and racial origins have at most minor impacts on life chances or opportunities.
- -ethnic and racial origins remain powerful determinants of opportunities
- -we do not limit the mainstream to the middle class: it contains a working class and even some who are poor, not just affluent suburbanites.
- - the mainstream culture, which is highly variegated in any event—by social class and region, among other factors—changes as elements of the cultures of the newer groups are incorporated into it.

Why more assimilation?

“Our rethinking has led us to formulate a “new assimilation theory” that specifies the mechanisms of assimilation”

1. The mainstream encompasses structures of opportunity offering powerful incentives that make assimilation rewarding for many immigrants and their descendants.
2. Another crucial factor lies in the ability and willingness of established groups in the white majority to resist and exclude the newcomers, which are presently greatly reduced from what was the case during the first half of the twentieth century.
3. The institutional boundaries of the mainstream are more open now to the entry of nonwhites than they have been in any other period of American history

Why more assimilation?

“Our rethinking has led us to formulate a “new assimilation theory” that specifies the mechanisms of assimilation”

1. The mainstream encompasses structures of opportunity offering powerful incentives that make assimilation rewarding for many immigrants and their descendants.

What might be some incentives to assimilate?

Getting an education, a job, social acceptance, a social network, even participating in civic and political life...

Those are all incentives to assimilate

Why more assimilation?

“Our rethinking has led us to formulate a “new assimilation theory” that specifies the mechanisms of assimilation”

2. Another crucial factor lies in the **ability** and **willingness** of established groups in the white majority to resist and exclude the newcomers, which are presently greatly reduced from what was the case during the first half of the twentieth century.

- The white majority is less **able** to exclude non-whites
 - Segregation and discrimination are illegal
- The white majority is less **willing** to exclude non-whites
 - The white majority is less willing to practice segregation and discrimination against non-whites
- How do both lead to more assimilation among whites and non-whites?

Why more assimilation?

“Our rethinking has led us to formulate a “new assimilation theory” that specifies the mechanisms of assimilation”

3. The institutional boundaries of the mainstream are more open now to the entry of nonwhites than they have been in any other period of American history

In other words, organizations have opened to non-whites unlike ever before in US history

Example public sector: <https://chicagocrusader.com/this-congress-is-the-most-diverse-ever/>

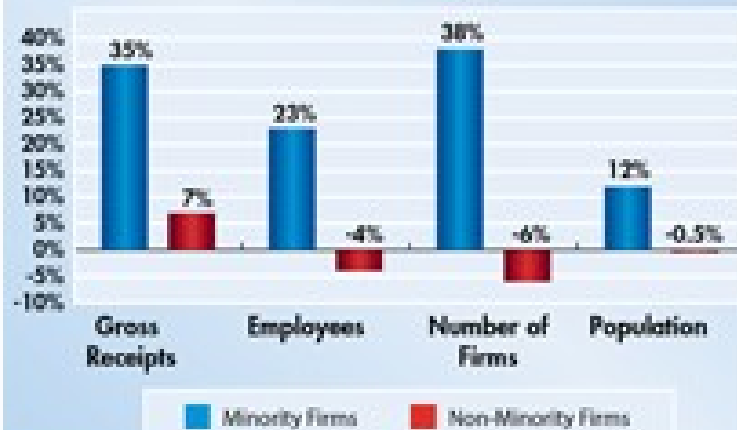
Example private sector: <https://www.mbda.gov/page/us-business-fact-sheets>

Why does this lead to more assimilation?

U.S. Minority-Owned Firms

January 2016

Growth of U.S. Firms (2007 - 2012)



Industry Sectors of Minority-Owned Firms



QUICK FACTS

- There are 8 million minority-owned firms in the U.S. — a 38% increase since 2007.
- Combined gross receipts of minority-owned firms increased 35% between 2007 and 2012, but average receipts per firm declined 2% during the same period.
- 11% of minority-owned firms have paid employees, compared to 22% for nonminority firms.

Assimilation argument summary

- Assimilation theory:
 - Losing ethnic identity
 - As racial and ethnic minorities assimilate into the majority, then the majority is culturally changed in the process
- We will see more assimilation for three reason:
 1. Incentives for assimilation
 2. Less social exclusion of minorities
 3. Workplaces and organizations are diversifying

Brotherton, David and Luis Barrios. 2011. *Banished to the Homeland: Dominican Deportees and Their Stories of Exile*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Transnationalism – the grey areas of assimilation

Transnationalism = practices and relationships linking migrants and their children with the home country

How does it happen? There are many ways that people maintain links across borders...



Transnationalism – the grey areas of assimilation

Examples of transnationalism

Communities that are part of diasporas often maintain social and cultural links with their homeland while also assimilating

Desus and Mero – comedians from immigrant families (one Jamaican the other Dominican), they maintain certain ethnic distinctions while also assimilating and contributing to American culture (“ethnic distinctions” such as cultural pride (the flag), language/accents, practices, mannerisms, beliefs from the ‘old country’)



Transnationalism – the grey areas of assimilation

Sometimes transnational communities entirely assimilate (eg Irish Americans)...

...sometimes they do not assimilate (eg Amish)

...or they kinda-sorta assimilate (ie the grey area of assimilation)

Social bulimia theory

Do immigrants experience social bulimia?

Social bulimia = cultural inclusion with structural exclusion



Social bulimia theory

Example of theory of social bulimia

How are the young African-American students culturally included into UCLA? How are they structurally excluded?

Did the black bruins subculture assimilate? Why or why not?



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEO3H5BOIFk&feature=emb_title

Cultural inclusion of the immigrant

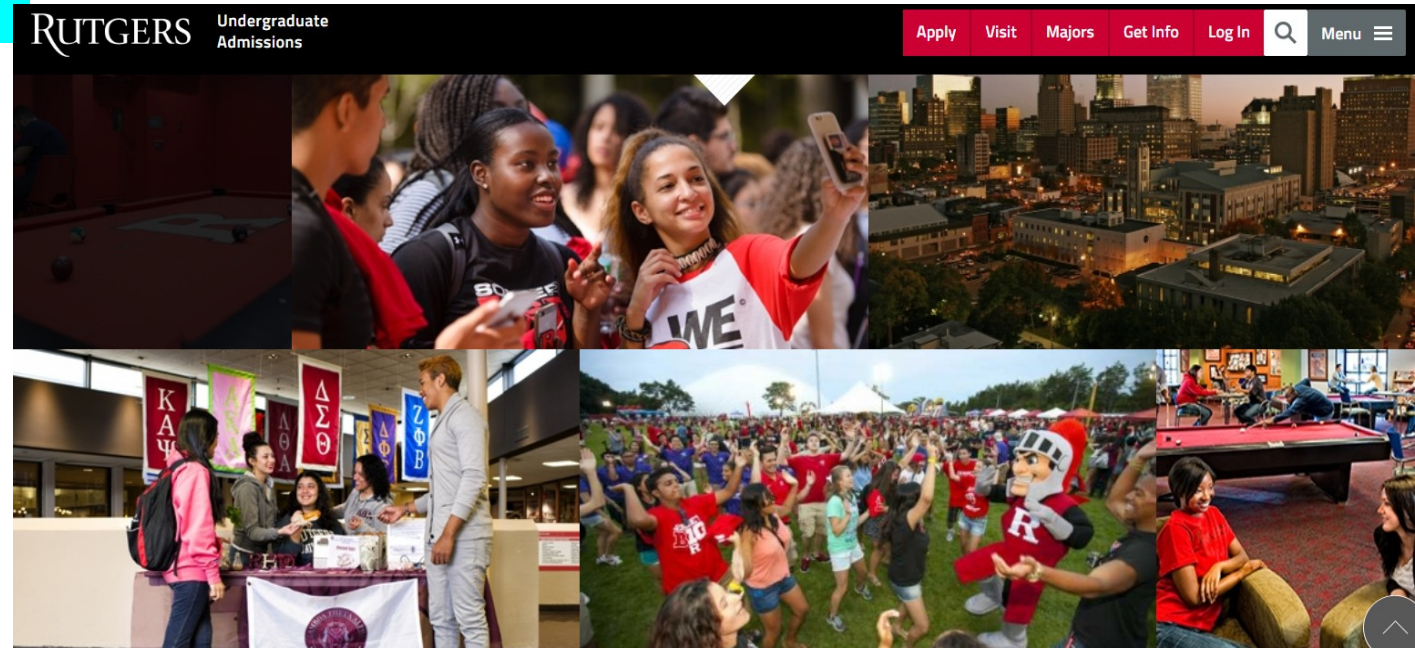
- “Seduced by the American Dream”

- What is the American dream?

- How do we celebrate diversity?

<https://admissions.rutgers.edu/>

^images of highly diverse student body, why does Rutgers admissions do this? Or any other university?



Cultural inclusion of the immigrant

- schooling – how do we promote diversity in schools? How does the idea of a meritocracy promote diversity?
- -consumer culture – where do we “consume diversity?”

<http://www.mtv.com/>

^in the media that we “consume” it is full of diversity of race, ethnicity, nationality, language, sexuality, and so on

Structural exclusion of the immigrant

Three processes of social exclusion of the immigrant

1. Anti-immigrant laws and policies
2. The creation of immigrants as the “folk devil”
3. Socio-economic exclusion

Structural exclusion of the immigrant

Three processes of social exclusion of the immigrant

1. Anti-immigrant laws and policies (including those just discussed)

“The trajectory of these first generation participants, these rather typical contemporary immigrants, took a turn for the worse, not simply because of what they did or did not do, but because the laws in the US changed, turning the racialized communities from which they came – their spaces, networks, survival mechanisms, and statuses – into increasingly criminalizable units of control and explosion.”

Structural exclusion of the immigrant

Anti-immigrant laws and policies

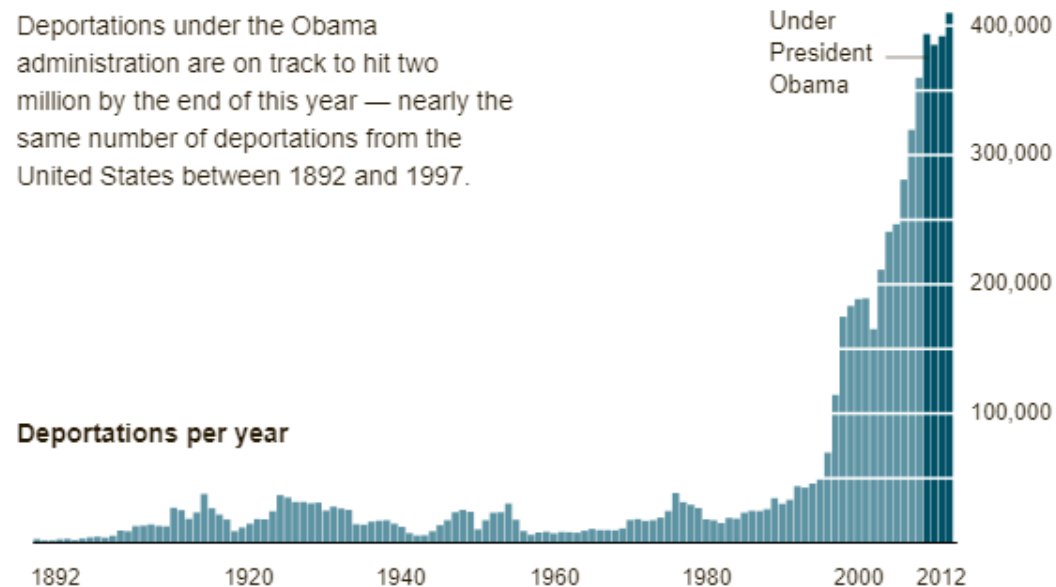
The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996

Published: February 22, 2013

Growth in Deportations

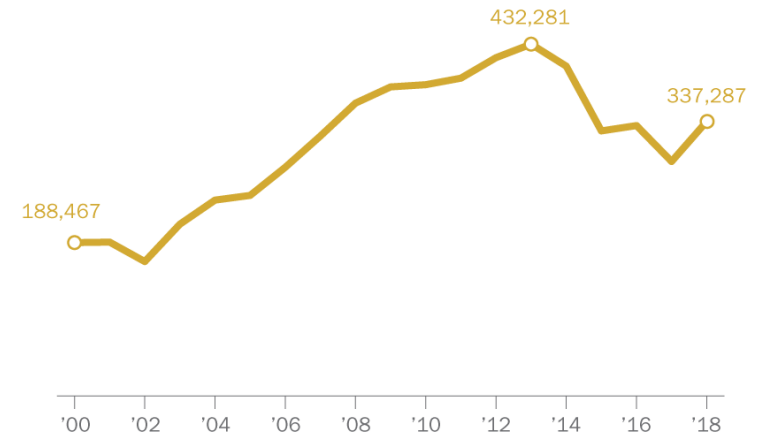
[Related Article »](#)

Deportations under the Obama administration are on track to hit two million by the end of this year — nearly the same number of deportations from the United States between 1892 and 1997.



Removals of unauthorized immigrants rose 17% from 2017 to 2018, but remain below recent highs

Removals of unauthorized immigrants, by fiscal year



Notes: Includes removals by Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Removals are defined as “the compulsory and confirmed movement of an inadmissible or deportable alien out of the United States based on an order of removal.”

Source: Department of Homeland Security, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Structural exclusion of the immigrant

“By casting for terrorists using every tool at its disposal—most notably immigration and criminal law enforcement—and then selectively detaining and deporting non-U.S. citizens for typically minor immigration or criminal law violations, immigration law socially controls immigrant communities through the deportation threat. Imposing this threat, or that of detention pending deportation with no consideration of individual merits, is a highly effective instrument of social control.”

-Teresa Miller, Judicial Scholar

Structural exclusion of the immigrant

<http://www.ice.gov/about/offices/enforcement-removal-operations/>

If millions of families are increasingly the target of ICE, would you expect these families to want to assimilate?

Structural exclusion of the immigrant

Other anti-immigrant policies and laws:

- Muslim ban
- Arizona's SB1070

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFg-Egyb69w>

- DACA repeal

<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1194415355592093698>

- Family separation practices

- “‘We Need to Take Away Children,’ No Matter How Young, Justice Dept. Officials Said” :

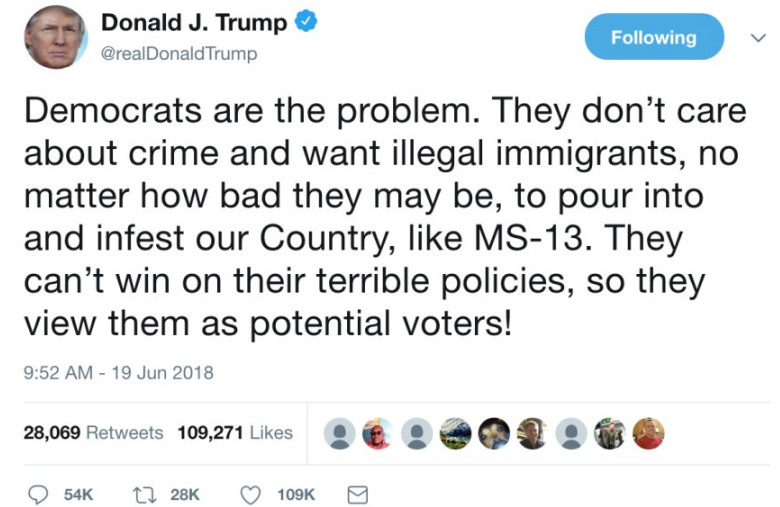
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/06/us/politics/family-separation-border-immigration-jeff-sessions-rod-rosenstein.html>

- Border detention camps
- Private immigrant detention camps

Structural exclusion of the immigrant

2. The creation of immigrants as the “folk devil”

“Folk devil is a person or group of people who are portrayed in folklore or the media as outsiders and deviant, and who are blamed for crimes or other sorts of social problems”



“
When Mexico is sending its people, they're not sending their best... They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume are good people.”

Donald Trump

June 16, 2015

Laura Buckman/Getty Images

To Whom it may Concern: This is a Liquid Washing Compound, and is FULLY GUARANTEED BETTER THAN ANYTHING EVER OFFERED TO THE PUBLIC; its constant use will not injure the cloths nor turn them yellow. For sale by the Gallon, Half-gallon and Quart. TRY A SAMPLE AND BE SURPRISED.

THE MAGIC WASHER

Manufactured by
GEO. DEE, Dixon, Illinois

PROCLAMATION
TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
HEREAFTER NO FAMILY
WILL BE WITHOUT
MAGIC WASHER
UNDER PENALTY OF
BEING DIRTY

DONT USE THIS
IF YOU WANT TO BE DIRTY

THE CHINESE MUST GO

We have no use for them since we got this WONDERFUL WASHER: What a blessing to tired mothers: It costs so little and don't injure the clothes.

THE

Chinese Must Go!

Mayor Weisbach

Structural exclusion of the immigrant

3. Socio-economic exclusion

ily life. Although all of the subjects who have spent significant time in the United States look back nostalgically at their former lives, the acculturation process was never a smooth one. They experienced a range of exclusionary pressures in the form of inadequate school systems, relatively low-status jobs, or the informal economy that is constantly luring them to attempt a short-cut to achieve the American Dream. We heard of the tremendous pressures from within the family as parents, siblings, and other real and fictive relatives provide invaluable support structures but at the same time have a habit of breaking under the strain of poverty and transnational instability. Through all this, the subjects struggled to keep their feet on the ground, but they never quite made it. Although most of them lament some of their past decisions, in general they feel they did the best they could with what was available to them. In the chapter 5 we discuss how our respondents fared in the next stage of their lives.

Resistance to social bulimia: how
social bulimia contributes to
transnationalism and non-
assimilation

Resisting social bulimia

“...we seek a language to consider the many acts of individual and collective defiance performed by immigrants **who are not simply adaptive and acculturating creatures**...What takes immigrants over the border in such numbers? Is it simply the lure of the American Dream? What lies behind the sacrifices of family and friends as tens of thousands of dollars are spent on trying to reunite spouses with their children despite the massive indebtedness incurred? Who have the will and intellect to defend themselves against a criminal justice system that has consistently denied subjects information and adequate legal representation and has kept them isolated from any form of social support? **How is culture or subculture formed among the stigmatized? And how is life lived, engaged, and enjoyed rather than simply endured?**