“Future Directions in Research Regarding Attitudes Toward Immigrants”

-Michael A. Zarate and Stephanie A. Quezada

By: Nimrah Imam
Psych 10
9/22/15
Overview

- Lit review, 2012
- Examining prejudice towards immigrants in U.S. policy
- Controversial and polarized attitudes
  - Importance of issue has risen in recent years
- Prejudice towards immigrants may systematically differ
  - Associated laws and norms
    - SB 1070 in Arizona
    - English-only laws
ARGUMENTS

- Psychological reasons for hostility towards immigrants:
  - Authorized vs. unauthorized immigrants
    - Research is not focused on their differences
  - Public discourse vs. reality
    - Ex) El Paso, Texas
      - Latino immigrants do NOT equate to more crime
  - Essentialism
    - “Races” have biological differences
      - Ex) Nationality (i.e. equal treatment) for many is defined by ethnic similarity, not by birth or citizenship.
Future Research

● Needs to identify solutions to ease prejudice

● U.S. in the middle of a “new wave” of immigration
  ○ 12.5% of the population is foreign-born (U.S. Census, 2010)
  ○ Another 11% of the population is native-born, with at least one immigrant parent

● “Should aim to identify the specific constructs that have produced heightened negativity toward immigrants in the United States” (165).
Discussion Questions

● Do you think there are there other reasons for hostility towards immigrants?

● What possible solutions could occur in policy or otherwise that would attempt to diminish this negative attitude?

● Is it problematic to assume that immigrants should assimilate into the U.S or is that an expectation that should be held?