

Canadians of a Different Color:

Analyzing Nativism in Modern Canadian Voters

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Abstract

Nationalism can be defined as the evaluation of one's culture against another with one's culture held superior over another. This definition explains a reality for Canadians—it is how they identify with their culture and nation. One of the effects that changes nationalism over time is nativism, or threats to the reality of the nation. Attitudes towards others who threaten national identity are seen as nativist. I test to see how demographics and party preferences affect a voter's likelihood of nativist attitudes and what causes increases in these attitudes. I use the 2004-2006 and 2008 Canadian Election Survey data to find what causes increases in nativist attitudes. Examination follows on how these demographics and preferences interact in order to establish causes for nativism. Conservatism is found as a major contributor to nativist attitudes: however, demographics such as age, population, and income are not possible or useful in this analysis.

Research Question

What causes increases in nativist attitudes in the average Anglo-Canadian voter?

Hypotheses

1. Nativism decreases with increases in population of where the respondent lives, income, and education levels.
2. Nativism increases with increases in age and conservatism.

Data

Data Source

All data for reported results come from the 2004-2006 and 2008 Canadian Election Surveys.

Dependent Variable

Nativism Index (5=Highly Nativist, 12.5 Average Nativism, 20=Completely Accepting of Newcomers and Cultures)

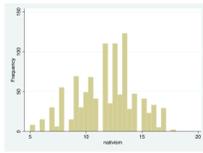
This is based on an index containing the answers to five questions from the Canadian Election Survey.

Independent Variables

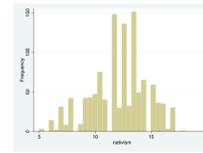
Age of the respondent, highest education level attained, level of conservatism measured by applying the respondents approval of the Federal Conservative Party on a 1-10 scale

Results

Frequency of Nativism Scores in Canadians 2004-2006



Frequency of Nativism Scores in Canadians 2008



Demographic Effects on Nativism Multivariate Regression Model
2004-2006

	Coefficient	T-Score	Beta Weights
Constant	13.07379	42.41	
Conservatism	-.2288454	-7.85***	-.2436425
Age	-.0086045	-1.65	.051116
Education	.0275864	2.71**	.0839553

Adjusted R-squared = .0674

Observations = 974

* = p,.05, ** = p<.01, ***p<.001

Demographic Effects on Nativism Multivariate Regression Model
2008

	Coefficient	T-Score	Beta Weights
Constant	11.39857	21.18	
Conservatism	-.2281283	-7.08***	-.2680457
Age	-.0057202	-1.00	-.0376713
Education	.2818958	6.31***	.2422494

Adjusted R-squared = .1576

Observations = 616

* = p<.05, ** = p<.01, *** = p<.001

Discussion

- Age is not found significant in the models in predicting nativism, while increases in conservatism increases nativist tendencies and increases in education decreases nativist tendencies.
- Too few respondents gave data for income to be accurately included in the analysis and population demographics were impossible to abstract from the data.
- Higher levels of conservatism relate directly to higher levels of nativism.
- Future studies will hopefully include income and population as independent variables with a more defined nativist index. However, the analysis could go more in depth into past political support for certain parties, which party the respondent is currently supporting, or party preference at the province level.