

Understanding the Complexities of the Arizona Immigration Act: A Midwestern Business Student Perspective

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Immigration policy and law have a history of being controversial and emotional issues in the United States. While a bipartisan effort to create an amenable immigration policy continues, states have proposed their own immigration laws. This study investigates the opinion of Midwestern university students in regard to the proposed 2010 Arizona Immigration Act. Specifically, it looks at student awareness of the Act and whether Midwestern students have the same views toward the Act as the general population. Comparisons are drawn using nationally recognized public opinion polls and student surveys conducted at the time of the Act's proposal.

INTRODUCTION

In April of 2010, the State of Arizona passed a unique yet controversial act regarding the status of illegal immigrants. The act ignited an emotionally charged debate across the U.S. This paper looks at Midwestern college students' opinions regarding the immigration act and compares and contrasts them with responses to national opinion polls. The students have taken or will be taking a course called Diversity in the Workplace, which introduces racial profiling and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. Critical race theory will also be used in this study to investigate responses to immigration law and to analyze student responses.

Background

A framework for understanding the issues related to the Arizona Immigration Act and illegal immigration includes the following: a description of the Act and its amendment, an overview of demographics of the "illegal" immigrant population, literature on immigration fear and bias, language, and the role of the economy. Politics is deeply embedded in the immigration debate as well. Illegal immigration was a focus during the presidential election of 1996 when political campaigns addressed illegal immigration and "illegals" were associated with the Mexican border (Burns & Gimpel, 2000).

Arizona SB 1070

For a number of years, Arizona political leaders have introduced legislation designed to tighten the entry of illegal immigrants to the U.S. at Arizona borders. The intent of past legislation was to stop immigration from Mexico, in hopes of reducing violent crime and falling property values (Rodriguez, 2010). In recent years, several pieces of legislation designed to address illegal immigration in Arizona were introduced. Each of these proposals was vetoed by then Arizona Governor, Janet Napolitano (Archibald, 2010). During Napolitano's second term as Governor, she was appointed as Secretary of

Homeland Security (Longley, 2012). Jan Brewer was then appointed as Arizona's Governor in 2010 and is known for her attempts at Arizona-Mexico border control.

In March of 2010, the murder of a South Arizona rancher, by a person alleged to be a drug smuggler, increased pressure on elected leaders to do something about border-related crime (Archibald, 2010). Representative Russell Pearce of Mesa had been working on a piece of legislation now known as the controversial Senate Bill 1070. On April 23, 2010, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer signed Pearce's, "Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act" a.k.a. SB 1070 (Staff, 2011). The Act was intended to go into effect on July 29, 2010. This did not happen because on July 28, a federal judge placed an injunction on three major components of the bill declaring them unconstitutional (CNN Wire Staff, 2010). A highly publicized debate ensued. President Obama openly criticized the Arizona law taking a seldom demonstrated Presidential stance on state legislation (Archibald, 2010). The premise of the federal judge injunction was that "states may not pursue policies that undermine federal law" (Barnes, 2012).

The Center for Immigration Studies (2010) identified the bill as being very popular among Arizona voters and found Arizona to have one of the fastest growing illegal immigrant populations in the country. The Center noted that the relationship between illegal immigration and crime is difficult to determine.

Two aspects of the bill are frequently identified as controversial because of their potential for discrimination in enforcement. One makes it a crime to not carry immigration documents. The other requires law enforcement officers to have only a "reasonable suspicion" prior to asking about immigration status (Center for Immigration Studies, 2010). The concern expressed on the "reasonable suspicion" part of the bill is that it will lead to racial profiling by officers, often resulting in discrimination against Hispanics.

Most elements of SB 1070 did not pass, including asking for documentation without probable cause, making it a crime to not carry papers, and forbidding individuals from performing work (Cohen & Mears, 2012).

Senate Bill (SB) 2162

Following the SB 1070 injunction, Governor Brewer signed a new proposal amending several of the more controversial aspects and named the new bill Senate Bill 2162. Under this bill, law enforcement officers could only question an individual's documentation when they are stopped for an unrelated issue (CNN Staff, 2010). The purpose of SB 2162 was to reduce racial profiling. In addition, race, color, or national origin cannot be the basis for investigations (Silverleib, 2010).

Demographics

Information on the demographics involved in immigration is far from exact because the U.S. Census reports utilize self-identification. Exposing illegal or undocumented status can be very risky for an immigrant or their employer. In March of 2010 (just before the data for this study was collected), the estimated number of immigrants in the U.S. was 40 million (approximately 60 percent of them are from Mexico), and that 11.2 million of them could be categorized as unauthorized immigrants (Passel, 2011). Arizona, the focus of the Immigration Act, is estimated to have a six percent population of unauthorized workers, while in the Midwestern state used in this study 1.8 percent of the population is unauthorized workers (Passel, 2011, Table A3).

As demographics in the U.S. change, one of the most dramatic areas of change is the race-ethnic group birth rate. In 2010, more than one-fourth of infants in the U.S. (under the age of one) were Hispanic (Frey, 2011). Hispanics are the largest infant minority group in the Midwestern state of the researched university, yet less than 40% of the infants are non-white (Frey, 2011).

Immigration Induced Fear and Bias

Prejudice is defined in this report as "bias which devalues people because of their perceived membership of a social group" (Abrahms, 2010, p. 6). Otherness, or marginalization, is the result of prejudice. With the number of immigrants growing in America, some immigration opponents are

organizing and using growth as anti-immigration political opportunity. As demographics change and immigrant numbers increase, it is not unusual for immigration opponents to organize and for some to use the immigrant population growth as a political opportunity (Hopkins, 2010). Research on the emotions and anxiety related to immigration issues support that emotions play a role in “opinion change and political action” (Brader, Valentino, & Suhay, 2008, p. 960).

Another emotional reaction in regard to Arizona immigration is that of concern over the Hispanic population entering from nearby Mexico. Some feel that the state’s crackdown on Hispanic illegals is also a fear of an increase in noncitizens, resulting in criminalizing immigrants (Sandoval, 2011). With the Latino population growing at a rate higher than the U.S. population in the 1980s and 90s, Branton, Cassese, Bradford and Westerland (2011) wrote that a “perfect storm” existed for anti-Latino backlash. Citizen groups and border-watch groups got some attention, but the growth of Hispanic and Latino populations was not a pressing national interest. “We argue that the terrorist attacks of 9/11 served that role (increased interest in immigrant group activity)” (Branton et al., 2011, p. 665). Heightened sensitivity to group-based threats post September 11, as well as concerns over national identity promoted widespread aversion towards Latinos based on perceptions the group violates traditional American values (Branton, et al., 2011). Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, politicians and newspapers presented the attacks as linked to immigration and national security (Hopkins, 2010).

The Language of “Otherness”

Words and the application of words associated with immigration tend to identify immigrants as an “other” group. According to Branton, et al., the language used to describe the immigration issue – “invasion, porous border, illegal, etc. – explicitly creates a politics of division an “us”, a “them” (2011, p. 664). Some immigrant groups are “constructed as desirable, as enhancing ‘who we are’ and others are constructed as undesirable, as a threat to U.S. sovereignty and national identity” (Dick, 2011, p. 36). The media often addresses illegal immigration by including information on Latinos/Hispanics. This can tend to reinforce negative stereotypes about Latinos, to a greater extent than immigrants from other areas (Brader et al., 2008). Sandoval (2011) found that states with high Hispanic populations show more support for an Arizona-style law.

The Role of the Economy

Concern that immigrants may take jobs away from American workers or will depress wages is not a new concern (Espenshade & Calhoun, 1993). Speculation that anti-immigrant attitudes are influenced by economic conditions continues today. The premise is that when an “outgroup” has a large number of members and is competing for the same scarce resources as the general population, there will be hostility (Hopkins, 2010, Persell 1997). Is this hostility truly a result of economic hardship? Burns and Gimpel have found that economic hardship acts to “activate prejudices that are latent” (2000, p. 224). The prejudices appear to be based on economic reasons, but once economic conditions improve, it is easier to blame prejudices on the economy than identify oneself as a racist (Burns & Gimpel, 2000).

RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND INTENT

The intent of this research is to determine the level of awareness and personal opinion related to the Arizona immigration legislation of 2010. Specifically, it is designed to unearth perspectives of college business students at a Midwestern university. While the 2010 immigration debate waged in Arizona, did the Midwestern students hear and pay attention to the debate, and did they form opinions on the immigration issue? Therefore, the first research question is, “Are the students at the Midwestern University aware of the issues related to the Arizona Immigration Law (SB 1070)?” News of the law spread across the country through a variety of media outlets and people naturally formed opinions on the law. The second research question is, “Do Midwestern university students have the same views on the Arizona Immigration Act as the general population?” It is hypothesized that Midwestern university students would be more open and accepting of illegal immigrants than respondents in three national

opinion polls and respondents in a “Midwestern” regional poll. It is recognized that demographic characteristics are sometimes determined by the organizational context like a university (Spataro, 2012).

Midwestern exposure to immigrants, particularly illegal immigrants, is estimated to be less than other geographic regions of the United States. In fact, the 2010 U.S. Census reports that 4.5% of the researched university’s state population is foreign-born. A Monmouth College study found that 62% of Midwesterners view illegal immigration as a serious problem (Cordery & Johnson, 2011). This is far less than the 88% of national respondents citing it as a serious problem in an August, 2010, CBS News poll (Dutton, De Pinto, Backus, & Salvanto, 2010). The same study (Monmouth) found that a smaller percentage of Midwesterners under the age of 50, (56%) saw it as a serious problem; whereas, 69% of Midwesterners over the age of 50 saw it is a serious problem. Therefore, it is expected that students in the study will have more moderate opinions of illegal immigration. It is also expected that those who have taken coursework in workplace diversity will demonstrate an even more moderate opinion.

METHODOLOGY

This study uses a mixed method approach to understanding the complexities of immigration. The mixed method is employed because quantitative research alone could not address the culture-specific knowledge required to explain how college students understand immigration in Arizona. The quantitative aspects of the study help to describe broad population data related to immigration facts and perspectives. Quantitative research can help to analyze the “what” of a social issue and qualitative research can help to solve the “why” (Kelle, 2006). Facts were gathered, applicable polls were identified, and an instrument was developed to gather data. The study is cross-sectional because it was important to gather opinion at the time of the legislation proposal.

The study utilizes three nationally recognized opinion polls conducted by reputable agencies. Questions from the public opinion polls, administered and published in April and May of 2010, were used to create a questionnaire on the topic of the Arizona Immigration, SB 1070. The student data was gathered in May of 2010 from students who had recently taken a one-credit workplace diversity course or would be taking the course the following fall.

Polls and Surveys

The Gallup, Angus Reid, and Rasmussen opinion polls were utilized in this research and survey development.

Gallup Opinion Poll

The focus of this national opinion poll (conducted via telephone) to 1,013 adults nationwide on April 27-28, 2010, was awareness, political affiliation, and support of SB 1070. Questions from the survey related directly to the proposed law and included: “Based on what you know or have read about the new Arizona immigration law, do you favor or oppose it?” and “How much have you heard or read about a new immigration law that was just passed in the state of Arizona?” (Jones, 2010)

Angus Reid Public Opinion Poll

The Angus Reid poll was administered online April 22-23, 2010. One thousand and two adults responded to the survey. This poll identified nationwide responses as well as a geographic breakdown of responses. Both sources of data were used for this study, with particular attention given to the 200 responses from the Midwest. This opinion poll included awareness questions, such as “All things considered, do you think immigration is having a positive effect or negative effect in the U.S?” (Angus Reid Staff, 2010). Other useful questions inquired into personal point of view on immigration, job availability and the use of “reasonable suspicion” by law enforcement.

Rasmussen Opinion Poll

This national opinion poll was conducted just prior to Governor Brewer's signing of SB 1070. Results were published online on April 22, 2010. Findings revealed that 70% of Arizona voters supported SB 1070 and 23% opposed the bill. Fifty-four percent expressed concern over racial profiling. Seventy-three percent of respondents reported that securing the border was more important than offering amnesty to illegal aliens (Rasmussen Staff, 2010). This survey contributed to the research by providing Arizona opinion statistics that could be compared to student responses regarding racial profiling.

Survey Development and Administration

A survey consisting of open-ended qualitative questions and quantitative questions regarding student perceptions of immigration and immigration law was created. It was distributed to undergraduate College of Business students at a Midwestern University. The survey was distributed via email in an online format, with the survey being completely anonymous and voluntary. There was no incentive to take the confidential online survey. The survey was sent May 11, 2010. In total, 257 fully completed surveys were received from a possible 865 eligible students for a 30% return rate. Of the completed surveys, 56% had completed a College of Business, one-credit course on workplace diversity.

The questions from each of the three national polls were incorporated into the survey. The survey was designed to investigate the two research questions through the aspects of: (1) awareness of the immigration law; (2) impact of immigration; (3) personal viewpoint on illegal immigrants; (4) effect on civil rights, and (5) predictions of the future of immigration law.

Awareness of Immigration Law

The survey began with a question from the Gallup Poll (2010), intended to measure awareness of the Arizona Immigration Law: "Have you heard of the new Arizona Immigration Law before you started this survey?" This yes/no question was followed with a question asking respondents where they had heard or learned of the legislation. Respondents could select from any or all of 13 listed communication sources and could also type a response to *other*.

The Impact of Immigration

A group of questions relating to the impact of legal and illegal immigration were asked, each taken from the Angus Reid Opinion Poll (2010). The first asked if respondents thought immigration was having a positive effect or negative effect in the U.S. Answers could be positive, negative or *not sure*. The next question related to whether respondents thought the number of legal immigrants allowed relocation to the U.S. should increase, remain the same, or decrease. Students could also answer *not sure*. The last impact question dealt with illegal immigrants and asked, "There are more than 12 million illegal immigrants in the United States right now. Which of these statements comes closest to your own point of view?" (Angus Reid Staff, 2010). Respondents could answer *They take away jobs from American workers, they are employed in jobs American workers do not want*, or *not sure*.

Personal Views on Illegal Immigrants

Students were then asked their opinion or personal view of illegal immigrants. Questions on this originated in the Angus Reid poll (2010). The first asked for a personal point of view on the status of illegal immigrants who are currently working in the U.S. Respondents could answer *They should be allowed to stay and apply for citizenship*, *They should be able to work temporarily but not become U.S. citizens*, *They should be required to leave their jobs and be deported*, or *Not sure*. The next personal view question addressed whether respondents would support one of five regulations from the Arizona bill in their own state. The regulations ranged from: using "reasonable suspicion" to determine status, arresting anyone unable to provide documentation, making it a crime to transport an illegal immigrant, and making it a crime to hire day laborers.

Civil Rights

The researcher included two questions related the Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. The first *yes, no, or not sure* type question asked whether the Arizona law violated Title VII. The second asked if students thought racial profiling would be used to determine who is “suspicious” of being an illegal immigrant. Each of these topics is discussed in the workplace diversity course.

Predictions on the Future of Immigration Law

Two questions written by the researcher asked respondents to predict the future. The first asked, “What would you expect to see as a result of the legislation?” Answer options were taken from the jargon used in popular media and included statements like *Legislation will soon be re-written due to public concern over the violation of rights* and *Violence against immigrants will increase and illegal immigrants will leave Arizona*. An *Other* response option with explanation was also provided. Respondents were then asked if similar legislation were to be introduced in their state, would they expect it to pass? The answer options were *Yes, No, and Not sure*.

The survey ended with an opportunity to type additional thoughts regarding the Arizona Immigration law. Fifty-five respondents provided their own additional comments.

SURVEY ANALYSIS

Quantitative Measures

The quantitative measurement in this survey is used to compare answers from respondents in national and geographic polling regions to answers of Midwestern university students.

Qualitative Measures

This research relies heavily on personal opinion expressed through qualitative, open-ended questions. Students were also allowed to make comments following close-ended questions and many of them did. As sociologist, Stewart Kirk states, “If the quantitative data represents the skeleton of an answer to the research questions, qualitative data gives it flesh” (2009, par. 2). The narratives allowed for coding and identification of emerging themes regarding immigration and the impact the law is having on Midwestern college students. The coded themes identified the viewpoints of students toward a very current and pressing issue.

CRITICAL RACE THEORY

Theory can be used in determining why reaction to SB 1070 was so strong and why an injunction was placed on the law. Critical race theory helps in looking at the role of race, law, and power in the oppression of some groups. The theory is rather complex and controversial.

In their book, *Critical Race Theory*, Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic introduce the “black-white paradigm” (2001). They present the race paradigm as a way people make sense out of a complex reality. A problem arises when a group does not fit into the “black-white paradigm.” The theory states that illegal immigrants do not fit the paradigm. They could become part of the minority that is seen as both invisible and un-American (Delgado & Stefancic, 2001).

One aspect of critical race theory is the use of semantics or labels. Kevin Johnson addresses issues with, “stereotyping Mexicans as ‘illegal aliens’ and social constructing Mexicans as criminal, foreign and the other. The alien terminology helps rationalize harsh, perhaps inhumane, treatment of persons from other countries” (1997, p. 268). Combining the words “illegal and alien” results in negative social recognition. Illegal immigrants have very little power. Perhaps their low status in power structures does not allow them to “fight back” or defend themselves from the proposed legislation.

Associated with critical race theory is the concept of having to show papers to prove you belong. Inspection of things like passports or identification cards were once associated with totalitarian regimes. These are now being used in America to access control to social services, to regulate movement, and to

single out specific racial groups (Caplan & Torpey, 2001). A number of offshoots or spinoffs of critical race theory can now be found. One of interest to this research is LatCrit theory.

Latino Critical Race Studies (LatCrit)

Latino Critical Race studies (LatCrit), is an area of study that combines scholarship with law in regard to the interests of Latinos. Beginning in 1995, an organized group of people, LatCrits, have defined their purpose as: (1) “to develop a critical, activist and inter-disciplinary discourse on law and policy towards Latinas/os, and (2) to foster both the development of coalitional theory and practice as well as the accessibility of this knowledge to agents of social and legal transformation” (Santiago, 2012, para. 3). The use of LatCrit theory helps to understand why and when discriminatory practices exist. Explaining the protective practice of “nativism” helps to understand why some groups may be discriminated against more in certain times. “Nativism against Latinos and Asians thrives during times of economic hardship, when the labor supply is glutted or when workers are insecure” (Delgado & Stefancic, 2001, p. 81). This begs the question of how important a role job availability and job security play in the creation and support of Arizona Immigration Law.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Student surveys, national and regional opinion polls, and critical race theory were used to explore perspectives on the Arizona Immigration Act. In the attempt to answer the two research questions regarding student knowledge/awareness and opinions on immigration law, five areas of interest were identified.

Awareness of the Immigration Law

One of the key research questions at the outset of this study was, “Are Midwestern college students aware of the Arizona Immigration Law?” With this study being conducted in May of 2010, media coverage was plentiful. There had been a protest on the target campus called “Do I Look Legal?” just prior to the survey administration. Protests on this campus are a very rare occurrence. One student group from the university had recently traveled to Arizona to protest the proposed legislation.

Well over half of the students participating in the online survey (70%) had heard of the Arizona immigration law. The National Gallup Poll published on April 29, 2010 indicated 75% of total respondents had heard of the law. Ages of those participating in the Gallup Poll were not available.

When asked where students had heard or learned of the law, 106 reported conversations with friends or family, 102 indicated network television news programs, 64 indicated newspapers, 46 cited either the Daily Show with John Stewart or the Colbert Report on Comedy Central. Thirty seven students had been in classrooms where the law was discussed and 28 had read it on an online news source. Ten students identified personal emails as a source and five indicated Twitter. Saturday Night Live had included a piece on the law in “Weekend Update with Seth Myers” just before the survey launched. Three students indicated they had seen that piece. While the above choices were listed in the survey, there was also an area for other responses. The most common responses in this area were: Facebook, a campus protest, ESPN, the New York Times, CNN, and public radio. One person had traveled home a few weekends prior to the survey and saw a very large group of “people marching with signs and chanting.”

Impact of Immigration

The next series of questions investigated viewpoints on the impact of immigration and used questions from the Angus Reid Public Opinion Poll (Angus Reid Staff, 2010).

In response to the question, “All things considered, do you think immigration is having a positive effect or negative effect in the U.S.?” 41% of students think it is having a negative effect. The national opinion poll found a negative effect response of 65% nationally and 68% among their Midwestern respondents. Thirty-five percent of the students were *Not sure* on this question.

The next impact question asked “From what you have seen, read or heard, do you think the number of legal immigrants who are allowed to relocate in the U.S. should increase, remain the same, or decrease?” (Angus Reid Staff, 2010). Thirty-six percent of students thought the number should remain the same and 31% thought it should decrease. The national percentages differed in that 34% thought the number should stay the same and 46% believed it should decrease. The Angus Reid group of Midwestern respondents indicated 36% should stay the same and 31% thought it should decrease.

The final impact question asked, “There are more than 12 million illegal immigrants in the United States right now. Which of these statements comes closest to your own point of view?” (Angus Reid Staff, 2010). Forty-five percent of students viewed them (or illegals) as taking jobs away, 39% believe they take jobs Americans do not want, and 16% were unsure. National responses were 59%, 31% and 10% respectively. Midwestern respondents were 67% (taking jobs away), 23% (others wouldn’t want the jobs) and 10% unsure.

Personal Viewpoint on Illegal Immigrants

Two questions from the Angus Reid poll were used to determine personal viewpoints on the status of illegal immigrants working in the U.S. Thirty-four percent of the university students indicated these workers should be deported, while 42% of the national poll takers indicated this and 48% of the Midwestern poll takers indicated deportation. Thirty-three percent of the students thought they should be able to stay in the U.S. with 25% of the national respondents and 24% of the Midwestern respondents feeling this way.

In the next personal viewpoint question, participants were given four of the regulations of the Arizona Immigration Law and asked if they would support enacting it in their own state. One regulation is, “Requiring state and local police to determine the status of a person if there is reasonable suspicion that they are illegal immigrants” (Angus Reid Staff, 2010). Sixty-five percent of students would support this in their own state, while 66% of national respondents would. Another regulation makes it a crime to hire day laborers off the street. Sixty-six percent of students would support this in their state while 57% of national poll respondents would support it.

Effect on Civil Rights

Only university students were polled on whether the Immigration Law is a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. This topic is discussed in the workplace diversity course. Thirty-four percent see it as a violation, 43% do not see it as a violation, and 24% are unsure. Breaking down the numbers to reflect those who took the diversity course prior to the survey, 36.35% who had taken the course saw it as a violation and 29.8% of those who had not taken the class saw it as a violation. Of those who had taken the course, 21% were unsure on this question, while 28.1% of those who had not taken the course were unsure.

The next question came from the Rasmussen poll and asked if respondents “believe that racial profiling will be used to determine who is ‘suspicious’ of being an illegal immigrant” (Rasmussen Staff, 2010). Seventy-nine percent of students felt racial profiling will be used while 53% of respondents in the national poll indicate this. The use of racial profiling is one of the subjects studied in the workplace diversity course.

Predictions of the Future of Immigration

Future effects of immigration were explored with, “Which of the following would you expect to see as a result of the legislation?” Percentages of total students selecting each of the given predicted options are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1
STUDENT PREDICTIONS OF THE IMPACT OF IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION

55%	Legislation will soon be rewritten because of concern over the violation of rights.
42%	Illegal immigrants will leave Arizona.
39%	The federal government will step in and develop their own legislation that will take care of immigration concerns.
38%	Violence against immigrants will increase in Arizona
36%	More states will follow Arizona's example and pass similar bills.
28%	The federal government will determine the legislation is unconstitutional and will override it.
25%	Public statements/actions of support to immigrants will be practiced by sport teams and celebrities.
17%	Investment in Arizona business will decrease.

Students were then asked if similar legislation were to be introduced in their state, would they expect it to pass. Twenty percent answered yes, 64% answered no and 16% were not sure. There was an area to write comments to this question. Some comments received were; "We're much farther from the border", "not very relevant up here", "State X is mostly liberal", and "according to a reliable source I have, we have several illegal immigrants on this campus, but we don't do anything about that because we're too concerned that it will make our school look less diverse to others."

The final question of the survey was, "Is there anything you would like to add regarding the Arizona Immigration Law?" Some responses were quite derogatory using strong, negative words. Some of the less negative comments are listed below:

"It is blatantly racist." "A disgrace to the people of the U.S. It makes us look like hypocrites." "An absolute violation of a person's rights, making profiling legal." "Gives police too many rights." "This profiling goes too far." "I believe the law is unconstitutional."

Some of the comments in support of the law are listed below:

"Americans need the jobs." "It's not racial profiling, its #!X common sense." "I applaud AZ for stepping up against the Feds." "It's about time someone steps up and does something about illegal immigrants."

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The initial research question is, "Are the students at the Midwestern University aware of the issues related to the Arizona Immigration Law?" It was hypothesized that Midwestern university students would be more open and accepting of illegal immigrants than respondents in a national poll and respondents in a "Midwestern" region poll. Mass media coverage around the date of the implementation of the Arizona Immigration Act created a nationwide awareness.

The percentage of students aware of the act was slightly lower than the national average. It is possible that the national poll included a bias because individuals most aware of the act may have been more willing to participate. This bias could also be true of the university students. Attempts to eliminate bias included clear directions indicating there would be no incentive or reward given for participation. A very interesting aspect of the awareness open-ended question is the news sources students identified. It is interesting that students get news through Facebook, Comedy Central network programs, ESPN, and national news broadcasts. News sources for Midwestern college students could be a study in itself. While ESPN appeared to be an unusual source of immigration news, there was a significant amount of coverage

of sports celebrities denouncing the proposed legislation in March and April of 2010. Arizona was to host the Major League Baseball All-Star game the next year, and some sports figures were calling for a boycott around the time the survey was administered. The Phoenix Suns NBA team wore jerseys saying, "Los Suns" to protest the law and were supported by the team owner as well as the National Basketball Association (Garcia, 2012).

The second research question is, "Do Midwestern university students have the same views on the Arizona Immigration Act as the general population?" Again, it was expected that the surveyed students would be more open and accepting of illegal immigrants than respondents in three national opinion polls and respondents in a "Midwestern" regional poll. Students in the study are also hypothesized to demonstrate more moderate opinions as a result of coursework in workplace diversity.

The impact of immigration gets to the heart of the second research question. Opinions as to whether immigration is having a positive or negative effect in the U.S. presented the largest disparity in this study. The high percentage of Midwesterners viewing immigration in a negative manner is higher than the national average in this and other national surveys. However, a majority of students did not share this harsh perspective, although a negative response by 41% of them cannot be discounted.

LatCrit Theory may play a role in the responses to personal viewpoint questions. This theory identifies that "nativism thrives during times of economic hardship" (Delgado & Stefancic, 2001). Nativism could explain the concern expressed in personal perspective questions. The economy in 2010 was tight with elevated unemployment rates.

Interestingly, the student response to whether the number of legal immigrants allowed relocation in the U.S. was very close to the national and Midwestern response. Critical Race Theory could play a role here in that the term "legal" is used in the question. Terms such as "illegal" and "alien" in the question may produce different results. When the next question did include the term "illegal immigrants", many more Midwestern respondents answered saying jobs were being taken away from Americans than the number of Midwestern students. The students who indicted the illegal immigrants were working jobs others did not want, may fit the demographic of students who come from an agricultural background.

Student responses showed significant support for making it a crime to hire day laborers off of the street, with a response rate higher than the national rate. It is this researcher's belief that many of the students do not know what day laborers are. This became apparent in a recent ethics course case. The geographic location of the university seldom, if ever, has day laborers on street corners.

As an instructor of diversity issues, this researcher was surprised that as few as 36% of students who had taken the diversity course saw the law as a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. Race and national origin are protected groups within the Act. Discriminatory acts such as racial profiling would typically be seen as a violation of the Act. Perhaps the students did not see racial profiling as a result of the legislation, but in the next question, a majority of the students felt "racial profiling will be used to determine who is suspicious of being an illegal immigrant" (Rasmussen Staff, 2010).

Students most educated or aware of immigration law likely had an easier time predicting the future of the Arizona legislation. Each of the listed options was addressed in news stories in April and May of 2010. Many (55%) expected the legislation to be rewritten (as it has) and many expected the federal government to declare the law unconstitutional (28%) and it has. The expectation that other states will follow Arizona's example and pass similar laws received a 36% prediction response and soon after Arizona's proposal, other states began work on their own. There had been immigration laws before, but Arizona's was viewed as the most dramatic.

The researcher was not surprised that 64% of the students did not expect to see similar legislation in their state. Some cited the distance from the Mexican border as removing the state from the issue. However, comments about the relevancy of the issue in the Midwest are interesting. The Midwestern University is not far from Canada.

The final part of the survey allowed participants to leave additional thoughts. Fifty-five or 21% of the students chose to leave an optional comment. Some of the responses were passionate expressions of opinion. Often these responses included a personal experience or experience of someone close to them.

One spoke of her personal experience living in Arizona and another spoke of her uncle who often gets stopped in airports for no reason other than his appearance.

Knowledge (or the lack thereof) of the immigration system was apparent in many responses. Many said immigrants should just enter the country the correct way by becoming citizens. Others said illegal immigrants do not pay taxes. Both of these topics are discussed in university ethics courses; clearly, however, more facts should be included in the workplace diversity course. Some students have parents who hire migrant workers and depend on them during their harvest. One said they hated the entire topic and wished people wouldn't talk about it. One student more familiar with the situation said, "The federal government needs to step in and make a clear and modern policy that addresses the pivotal role illegal immigrants play in our economic structure."

In conclusion, the research question of "Are the students at the Midwestern University aware of the issues related to the Arizona Immigration Law?" was answered with a majority of students being somewhat aware. All students who completed the survey should now be aware, to some extent. The second research question, "Do Midwestern university students have the same views on the Arizona Immigration Act as the general population?" was also answered. Their responses were generally quite different than the general population, even the population living in the Midwest. It was hypothesized that Midwestern university students would be more open and accepting of illegal immigrants than respondents in national opinion polls and respondents in a "Midwestern" regional poll. Surprisingly, Midwestern respondents (not students) to a national poll were generally more in favor of the immigration legislation than other parts of the country. The students did not follow the Midwestern poll findings. While results are not conclusive, this research shows a trend for the students to be more open and accepting to illegal and legal immigrants (with the exception of day laborers).

IMPLICATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

This study investigated a pressing issue and was successful in determining student awareness and perspectives of the proposed 2010 Arizona Immigration Act at one Midwestern university. As of October 2012, five more states have proposed similar immigration legislation (Barnes, 2012). The legislation in these states has not had the same degree of national news media attention. It would be interesting to run a similar study about knowledge and perceptions of the legislation in those states. The role of media may become very apparent in the formulation of immigration opinion. No legislation has been proposed in the home state of the Midwestern University. In 2013, the Gang of Eight (bipartisan U.S. senators), has proposed a new immigration law to deal with immigration reform from a federal level (Welna, 2013).

In June of 2012, the Supreme Court struck down three of the main provisions of the law. The Court did uphold the provision of checking papers of those detained by police, but not they could not be detained through racial profiling (Barnes, 2012). Immigration law will continue to change and emerge. Political parties have different positions on legislation. Political sentiment on illegal immigration policy may change with elections and will continue to be a topic of controversy and important public policy. Much research can be done on the perceptions of legislation.

As mentioned, business students at the study university take a course on workplace diversity. Opinions were not significantly different between those who had taken the course and those who had not. For now, implementing more educational experiences related to the complexities of immigration law through the lens of critical race theory will be beneficial to students of the workplace diversity course. Hope for dismantling the fear of immigrants and anti-immigration sentiment remains in the hands of education. Education should be designed to "humanize the immigrant experience by revealing statistics regarding mixed status families" (Sandoval, 2011, p. 52). An environment that allows for dissimilarity but also allows individuals to identify with each other can be created (Schaffer & Riordan, 2011).

The major limitation of this study is data was collected from only one university. The need to collect data at the specific point in time (when the Act was proposed), limited the ability to organize and collect from other institutions. It is possible that unknown factors may have skewed the results. Future research should attempt to collect data from several institutions. Comparing responses of Midwestern students

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