



Support for Black Reparations: The Impacts of Political and Racial Attitudes Between Group Identities



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Research Question

How do racial attitudes, political attitudes, and other demographic indicators affect support for material reparations?

Background

- This study examines a policy that would “Grant reparations payments to the descendants of slaves”
- Overall support for reparations is low, at about 32%.
- Divisions on reparations, generally fall on racial lines.
- Negative racial attitudes are important indicators of opposition to a variety of welfare programs.
- Research on reparations broadly shows conservative ideology and older age lead to less support.

Methods

- Data collected through the Nationscape survey.
- Took place between July 2019 and January 2021.
- Over 100,000 Americans were surveyed on reparations.
- This permits inferences towards the entire adult population.
- I employ an OLS regression test on support for reparations, subdivided between four racial groups.
- I test basic indicators of age, education, gender, and income.
- I also test political attitudes, measured by partisanship and ideology.
- Finally, I test racial attitudes, looking at both outward racial attitudes and in-group pride.

Key Findings

- Negative racial attitudes demonstrated the strongest tested influence
- Right-wing political attitudes predict opposition
- Notable Differences Between Black Americans and other groups for age and the influences of political attitudes

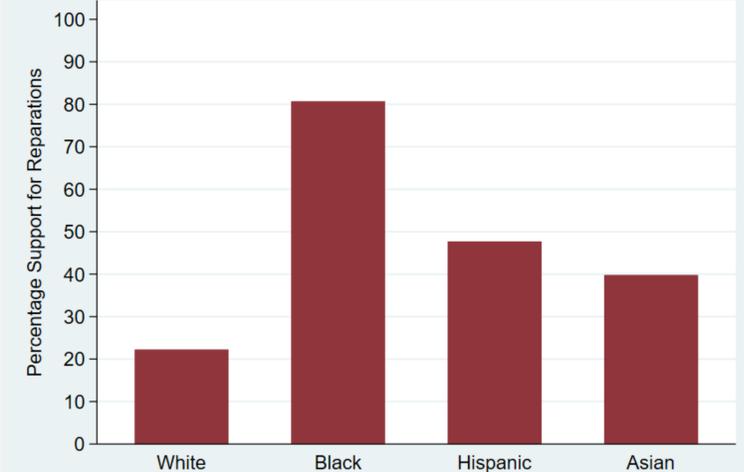
Independent Variables	White Racial ID	Black Racial ID	Hispanic Racial ID	Asian Racial ID
Racial Attitudes: Generations	-.092 (.0011)	-.082 (.0029)	-.12 (.0030)	-.096 (.0058)
Racial Attitudes: Tryhard	-.022 (.0012)	-.038 (.0023)	-.044 (.0030)	-.042 (.0061)
Republican Partisanship	-.013 (.00074)	-.032 (.0021)	-.014 (.0019)	-.024 (.040)
Conservative Ideology	-.049 (.0015)	-.0095 (.0034)	-.026 (.0040)	-.066 (.0081)
Age	-.0037 (.000077)	.00062 (.00022)	-.0031 (.00026)	-.0029 (.00045)
Family Income	-.0015 (.00027)	-.0029 (.00053)	-.0036 (.0069)	-.0089 (.0011)
Middle Income	-.032 (.0027)	.0091 (.0073)	-.012 (.0088)	.024 (.013)
Education	.013 (.0013)	.0096 (.0033)	.0015 (.0038)	.0089 (.0065)
Female ID	-.0034 (.0026)	.0017 (.0069)	.017 (.0077)	.031 (.013)
In-Group Pride	.019 (.0027)	.048 (.0070)	.026 (.0078)	.053 (.014)
American Pride	.076 (.0027)	.067 (.0068)	.054 (.0078)	.13 (.014)
Intercept	.94 (.0069)	1.1 (.019)	1.1 (.019)	1.2 (.036)
N	76,650	11,768	13,197	3,968
Adjusted R2	.28	.17	.23	.26

Future Directions

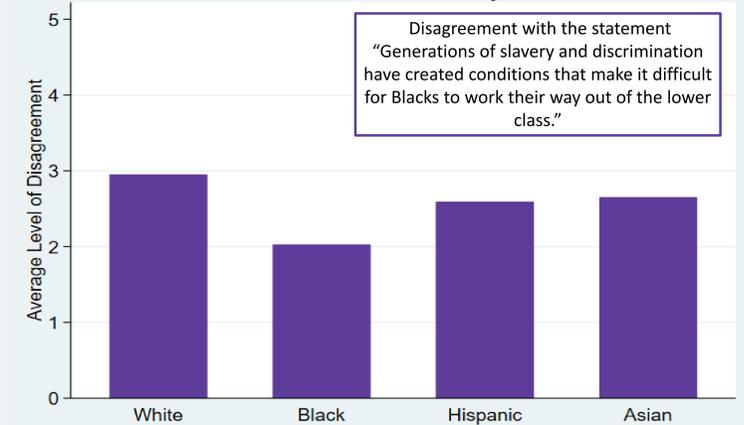
- How negative racial attitudes affect non-white peoples.
- The flipped strengths of influence of ideology and partisanship for Black Americans.
- The effects of age on Black Americans compared to other groups should receive future attention.
- In-group pride results weakly contrast previous work, demonstrating need for future study.

Results/Discussion

Support for Reparations by Racial Identification



Attitudes Towards Black Americans by Racial Identification



Reparations Support by Political Ideology and Partisanship
Predicted Change Between Furthest Politically Left and Right Positions

