

Citizenship Status, Naturalization Requirements, and Immigrants' Attitudes toward Immigrants

Understanding the attitudes of naturalized citizens is increasingly crucial for comprehending sentiments toward immigration. This study investigates how the attitudes of naturalized citizens and the degree of difficulty in obtaining naturalization are related to their sentiments toward other immigrants. The analysis utilizes multilevel regressions on country-level data from 17 regions in both the Western and non-Western world. The findings reveal that naturalized immigrants tend to exhibit more negative attitudes toward other immigrants compared to immigrants without citizenship. This relationship is particularly pronounced in non-Western countries, regions with more challenging naturalization processes, and regions without language requirements for naturalization. To ensure the robustness and causal estimation of the results, dependent variable substitution, coarsened exact matching (CEM), and double machine learning techniques were employed.