

Sociology

Query paper:

Title: The New Second Generation: Segmented Assimilation and its Variants

Abstract: Post-1965 immigration to the United States has given rise to a vigorous literature focused on adult newcomers. There is, however, a growing new second generation whose prospects of adaptation cannot be gleaned from the experience of their parents or from that of children of European immigrants arriving at the turn of the century. We present data on the contemporary second generation and review the challenges that it confronts in seeking adaptation to American society. The concept of segmented assimilation is introduced to describe the diverse possible outcomes of this process of adaptation. The concept of modes of incorporation is used for developing a typology of vulnerability and resources affecting such outcomes. Empirical case studies illustrate the theory and highlight consequences of the different contextual situations facing today's second generation.

Candidate papers:

- Title:** Second-generation decline: Scenarios for the economic and ethnic futures of the post-1965 American immigrants

Abstract: 'Second-generation decline' questions the current American faith in the myth of nearly automatic immigrant success. In discussing economic scenarios, positive and negative, for the future of the children of the post-1965 immigrants, the possibility is proposed that a significant number of the children of poor immigrants, especially dark-skinned ones, might not obtain jobs in the mainstream economy. Neither will they be willing - or even able - to take low-wage, long-hour 'immigrant' jobs, as their parents did. The article also deals with the relations between ethnicity and economic conditions in the USA and with the continued relevance of the assimilation and acculturation processes described by 'straight-line theory'.
- Title:** Gaining the upper hand: Economic mobility among immigrant and domestic minorities

Abstract: Labour market experiences of three immigrant minorities in the United States are reviewed and contrasted with the three principal theories bearing on ethnic poverty and economic mobility: cultural assimilation, human capital acquisition, and industrial restructuring. Although there is support for each, they do not account satisfactorily for the experiences of many ethnic groups, in particular those who have progressed on the basis of socially embedded small entrepreneurship. An alternative conceptualization is suggested by these experiences that highlights the significance of community level variables and, in particular, alternative sources of social capital. The character of these processes is examined. Its implications for theories and policy towards ethnic minorities are discussed.
- Title:** Made in America: Immigrant students in our public schools.

Abstract: This book tells the story of immigrant students as they learn about the United States and being American in school. It also tells the stories of the teachers who teach them, the educators who have shaped their educational program, and their English-speaking, U.S.-born schoolmates. These stories are told in the context of an urban high school in California in an increasingly multicultural community where the promises of diversity are only on the surface. In many ways, the researcher used standard ethnographic methods in the study of this school over

several years. Three formal journals recorded the researcher's roles as storyteller, anthropologist, and advocate, respectively.

4. **Title:** Flight into despair: A profile of recent Haitian refugees in South Florida

Abstract: Based on a random sample survey of recently arrived Haitians, participant observation, and intensive interviewing, this article examines the following areas: a) individual background characteristics of Haitian immigrants; b) their arrival and early resettlement experiences; c) their education, knowledge of English and information about the United States; d) current employment status and occupation; e) income and use of public assistance; f) predictors of employment, occupation, and income; and g) beliefs and orientations. These results are presented after discussion of the methodology of the study and the context of out-migration from Haiti.

5. **Title:** City on the edge: The transformation of Miami

Abstract: Winner, 1995 American Sociological Association Robert E. Park Award? Projecting fantasies of wealth and excess, Miami, "America's Riviera," occupies a unique place in our national imagination. Uncovering the hidden story of this dreamlike place, Portes and Stepick explore the transformations of Miami from a light-hearted tourist resort to a troubled, complex city.

6. **Title:** Social capital in the creation of human capital

Abstract: In this paper, the concept of social capital is introduced and illustrated, its forms are described, the social structural conditions under which it arises are examined, and it is used in an analysis of dropouts from high school. Use of the concept of social capital is part of a general theoretical strategy discussed in the paper: taking rational action as a starting point but rejecting the extreme individualistic premises that often accompany it. The conception of social capital as a resource for action is one way of introducing social structure into the rational action paradigm. Three forms of social capital are examined: obligations and expectations, information channels, and social norms. The role of closure in the social structure in facilitating the first and third of these forms of social capital is described. An analysis of the effect of the lack of social capital available to high school sophomores on dropping out of school before graduation is carried out. The effect of social capital within the family and in the community outside the family is examined.

Exemplary analysis:

1. **Relevance:** The concept of "second-generation decline" challenges optimistic assumptions about immigrant integration and success, which is a critical backdrop for introducing the concept of segmented assimilation that acknowledges varied adaptation paths.

Reason for Citation: This paper is likely cited because it discusses the potential for economic and social decline among the second generation of post-1965 immigrants, a concern that directly relates to the query paper's focus on the diverse outcomes of adaptation.

2. **Relevance:** This paper reviews labor market experiences and economic mobility among immigrant minorities, contrasting them with existing theories of ethnic poverty and economic mobility. It introduces the importance of community-level variables and social capital, which are essential for understanding the different trajectories of assimilation and economic integration

among the second generation.

Reason for Citation: The query paper might cite this to support its argument that the modes of incorporation and available resources significantly affect adaptation outcomes.

3. **Relevance:** The ethnographic approach offers insights into the challenges and opportunities that schools present for immigrant integration, aligning with the query paper's interest in the diverse outcomes of the second generation's adaptation process.

Reason for Citation: This citation provides a concrete example of how immigrant students experience and navigate the American education system, which is a crucial aspect of the adaptation process for the second generation.

4. **Relevance:** This paper offers a detailed examination of Haitian refugees' experiences, which can illustrate one of the segmented paths of assimilation.

Reason for Citation: The detailed demographic, economic, and social analysis provides a case study that the query paper might use to exemplify how specific groups within the second generation face unique challenges and opportunities for adaptation, influenced by their modes of incorporation and available resources.

5. **Relevance:** The transformation of Miami, as discussed in this paper, serves as a case study of how immigration can reshape a city's social, economic, and cultural landscape.

Reason for Citation: It might be cited in the query paper to illustrate the broader societal context within which the second generation adapts and the role of specific urban environments in shaping the possibilities for segmented assimilation.

6. **Relevance:** This paper introduces the concept of social capital and its role in facilitating or hindering the educational and social integration of individuals, which is directly relevant to the study of the second generation's adaptation.

Reason for Citation: The query paper likely cites this to underscore the importance of social networks, community support, and social norms in determining the diverse outcomes of segmented assimilation among the second generation.

Exemplary ranking: Ranked order: paper 1, paper 6, paper 2, paper 3, paper 5, paper 4

1. **Explanation:** This paper is foundational as it directly addresses the core concern of the query paper: the diverse outcomes of adaptation among the second generation. It sets the stage for discussing segmented assimilation by challenging optimistic assumptions about integration and success.
2. **Explanation:** This paper is important for its focus on economic mobility and labor market experiences, which are key factors in the adaptation process. It introduces community-level variables and social capital, enriching the discussion on how different resources affect assimilation trajectories.
3. **Explanation:** The educational system's role in the adaptation process is critical, and this paper offers concrete insights into the challenges and opportunities schools present for immigrant integration. It aligns with the query paper's interest in the diverse outcomes of adaptation, especially through the lens of education.
4. **Explanation:** Although providing valuable case study material on Haitian refugees, this paper might be ranked last due to its more narrow focus compared to the others. However, it still offers

important empirical evidence on the unique challenges and opportunities facing specific groups within the second generation.

5. **Explanation:** While more specific in its geographical focus, this paper illustrates the broader societal and urban context within which adaptation occurs. It helps understand how specific environments can shape the possibilities for segmented assimilation.
6. **Explanation:** Given the emphasis on the role of social capital in facilitating or hindering adaptation, this paper is crucial for understanding the mechanisms through which the second generation navigates their social environment. It provides the theoretical underpinning for discussing community support and social networks' impact on assimilation outcomes.