

Politics and Acculturation: How Identity and Acculturation Intersect with Politics
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I conducted a study meant to measure Latine students ethnic pride and connection to their Latine identity before and after higher education. Outside of this, I also studied student's connection to BIPOC individuals before and after college. Through this, I then studied if levels of connection and pride to both Latino identity and other BIPOC students impacts an individual's partisanship. This study was conducted as a Qualtrics survey, and the link to the survey was sent in an email to personal contacts. I also posted it on LinkedIn for my network to see. A total of 49 students replied. According to Qualtrics, the survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. At the end of the survey, we included a link to a separate survey where people were offered the chance to enter their email address to be entered into a raffle for a \$50 Amazon gift card. This was done to incentivize more responses. My hypothesis were the following: 1.) Students with high attitudes of connection to their Latine identity before higher education will have little to no change in their connection to their Latine identity after some time in higher education. 2.) Students who attended a university or college will have an increase in connection to BIPOC people after some time in higher education. 3.) If pride is at all present in a positive manner, there will be no change or an increase. 4.) Students with a higher connection to their latine identity will lean in favor of Biden. If connection becomes less or was low to begin with, I believe they will lean in favor of Trump. In terms of pride, I believe people with low levels of pride will lean in favor Trump as opposed to Biden. 5.) Students with a higher connection to BIPOC individuals after undergrad will lean towards Biden. After analyzing the data, I found that hypothesis 1, 2, and 5 were correct. Of the students surveyed, those who identified as very connected to their Latine identity experienced little to no change after some time in higher education. Of these same students, those who attended a traditional university/college reported having an increase in level of connection to BIPOC people after some time in higher education. However, it is important to note that not all respondents who reported having a stronger connection to BIPOC people after higher education came from traditional universities and colleges. Nevertheless, regardless of the type of institution, students who reported a higher connection to BIPOC individuals did lean more in favor of Biden as opposed to Trump. In terms of hypothesis 3 and 4, I believe it is not possible for me to deduce if these hypotheses are correct due to the way I did my outreach. This survey was sent out to a list of my personal contacts and acquaintances, who were advised to send it out to others in their network who fit the demographic. Given that I personally identify as very liberal leaning and tend to surround myself with like-minded people, it is no surprise that a vast majority of my respondents were left-leaning in terms of ideology and how they politically identify. For this reason, I believe that future research must be done to study both hypothesis 3 and 4, and for outreach to be much more grand than what this research provided. If you are interested in reading the full report, please feel free to contact me at yaguirre@bowdoin.edu.

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