

## **H. Crystal Wong: The Ethnic Past in Us: Single Ancestry Identification among Higher Generation and Their Life Outcomes**

### **1. What is the main question raised in the paper?**

This paper studies how reporting only one ancestry as a proxy for the persistence of ethnic identity towards one ethnic group among third or higher order generation immigrants of European origins affects their socioeconomic outcomes in the United States. In addition, the author try to find out whether the effect of single ethnic identity would persist to third and higher generations.

### **2. Why should we care about it?**

- (1) The paper contributes to the literature on immigrant assimilation by understanding how ethnic identity might transcend across generations and its impact on descendants' life outcomes. Immigration has become a challenging global issue. Their long-term assimilation into the host country is crucial to social order and the well-being immigrants and their descendants.
- (2) Ethnic labels of individuals can become increasingly ambiguous for higher generation immigrants whose ancestors are likely to have intermarried or married someone of mixed ancestry.

### **3. What is the author's answer? & How did the author get there?**

- (1) The effects of ethnic identity in the form of single ancestry reporting are still present among third and higher generation descendants of European origins in the United States.
- (2) The OLS estimates indicate that individuals reporting single ancestry are associated with more favorable family outcomes but less favorable socio-economic outcomes.
- (3) The 2SLS estimates that attempt to identify the causal effects of single ancestry reporting using whether the respondent spoke a language other than English at home as the instrument suggest that men that identify themselves with only one ancestry are more likely to be married and have more than two children compared to their counterparts reporting multiple ancestries.
- (4) Women reporting one ancestry are found to be less likely to own home in their households, but no such effect is found for men reporting a single ancestry.