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A Comparative Analysis of Immigration Framing in News Coverage during the 2016 Brexit Referendum and the 2016 American Presidential Election

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A Comparative Analysis of Immigration Framing in News Coverage during the 2016 Brexit
Referendum and the 2016 American Presidential Election

by

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Undergraduate honors thesis under the direction of

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the Upper Division Honors Program.

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Abstract

The United Kingdom and America held national elections in 2016 that had profound effects domestically and internationally. When UK citizens voted to leave the European Union and Americans elected Donald Trump to be their 45th president, immigration was at the center of the debate in both countries. News media in both countries consistently covered immigration and how each political party stood on the issue.

My research explored the similarities and differences between American news coverage and British news coverage in the news framing of immigration. This thesis is a comparative content analysis to find these similarities and differences by researching the modifiers and descriptions journalists used when coverage immigration issues.

Background

American Immigration Policy

The Immigration and Nationality Act, enacted in 1952, (INA) governs American immigration policy. INA divides immigration into six categories: family-based immigration, employment-based immigration, per-country ceilings, refugees, and asylees, Diversity Visa Program and other forms of humanitarian relief. It allows 675,000 permanent immigration visas annually among the divisions (American Immigration Council, 2015).

British Immigration Policy

Prior to the UK leaving the European Union on January 31, 2020, the United Kingdom followed all EU immigration policy. The EU's ideal of "free movement of persons" was controversial and often debated within British politics and society. This policy allows any EU citizen and his or her family members to move freely within the EU (European Parliament, 2020). Migrants or refugees could gain EU citizenship and then freely move to the United Kingdom.

After the UK left the EU in January 2020, the country moved toward a point-based system. The system gives a person wanting to immigrate to the UK points based on characteristics such as a sponsored job, the level of skill required to complete the job, level of education, and salary. A person is required to have a least 70 points to be approved (UK Immigration Site, 2020).

EU Immigration Policy

The EU created five categories for migrant entrances into EU countries: asylum seekers, highly skilled workers, students and researchers, seasonal workers, and family reunification.

Highly skilled worked

There are also processes for asylum requests, relocation of asylum seekers from Greece and Italy, and returning illegal migrants. Currently, the EU has the following resettlement plans: 2015 EU resettlement scheme, 2016 resettlement scheme for Syrian refugees in Turkey, and the 2017 EU recommendation (European Parliament, 2020).

Summary of Political Rhetoric

In 2015-16, leading politicians from both the UK and America brought the issue of immigration to the forefront while campaigning in their respective countries. Pro-Brexit politicians often talked about taking back the border and job security. A comparison of political rhetoric from British politicians while campaigning to leave the EU and American politicians campaigning in 2015 and 2016 shows how similar politicians' rhetoric affects voters in both countries view immigration. Brexit leader John Redwood said on January 29, 2016, while on the campaign trail, "We need to take back control of our borders and we need to be able to control our own welfare system," (Clarke, Goodwin, Whiteley, 2017). During his campaign for the Republican Party's presidential nomination, Donald Trump said in July 2015, "They're taking our jobs, they're taking our manufacturing jobs, they're taking our money, they're killing us," (Boak, 2019). Another prominent leader from the Brexit party was Nigel Farage. As a leader of the UK Independence Party (UKIP) and a member of the European Parliament, Farage has long opposed Britain's membership in the EU. After Britain voted to leave the EU in the summer of

2016, Farage spoke to the EU Parliament and expressed concern about the EU's immigration policy and how it would affect Britain. "You're in denial over Mrs. Merkel's call last year for as many people as possible to cross the Mediterranean into the EU has led to massive divisions between countries and within countries," (Clarke, Goodwin, Whiteley, 2018).

Although Trump is the current face of anti-immigration rhetoric in American, there have been other politicians that influenced the electorate's views of immigrants. In June 2010, Republican Texas U.S. Representative Loui Gohmert said, "I talked to a retired FBI agent who said that one of the things they were looking at were terrorist cells overseas who had figured out how to game our system. And it appeared they would have young women, who became pregnant, would get them into the United States to have a baby... And then they would turn back where they could be raised and coddled as future terrorists," (Politico, 2012). He continues to advocate for increased border security and is an avid supporter of Trump. When speaking to the *Palestine Herald-Press* in 2017, Gohmert said, "We have 70,000 people crossing illegally into Mexico from the U.S. every year, looking for illegal drugs," (Gohmert, 2017). Representative Keith Ellison became the first Muslim to serve in Congress in 2006. After his election, Virginia Republican Representative Virgil Goode said of his election, "[I]f American citizens don't wake up and adopt the Virgil Goode position on immigration, there will likely be many more Muslims elected to office and demanding the use of the Quran," (Politico, 2012).

American politicians, primarily Republicans, advocate for policies and government spending that supports strong border security. Vice President Mike Pence said in a speech at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Headquarters in July 2018, "Men and women of ICE also confront criminal illegal immigrants who endanger our communities and prey on our most vulnerable. Our ICE agents are busy every day taking them off the streets. You've fought vicious gangs like MS-13. You've stopped human smugglers, child traffickers, and destructive

drug cartels that are poisoning our youth and stealing lives of promise. You've apprehended terrorists who've come into our country to challenge our way of life and harm our people," (White House Remarks, 2018). President Trump himself said in June 2015 while campaigning, "When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're sending people that have a lot of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists," (Mark, 2018). Republican Tennessee U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn shares similar views regarding border security as President Trump. Shortly after her victory in November 2018 she spoke with local Montgomery County Tennessee leaders about the importance of border security. "The Border Patrol consistently says we need three things, and a barrier is one of those three things. They say this is what they need to deter illegal entry into this country, whether it is drugs or human traffickers or sex traffickers or gangs," (Babich, 2019).

Conservative Member of Parliament Peter Bone campaigned to leave the EU and served on the advisory board after the referendum. Before the referendum, he said, "[Voters] are worried about mass immigration of people coming into the continent. Some of these people coming in will be terrorists," (Clarke, Goodwin, and Whiteley, 2017). Matthew Elliott, the chief executive of "Vote Leave" released a statement in April 2016 in response to then-Home Secretary Theresa May speaking with the BBC about remaining in the EU. Elliott said: "[T]he only way to take back control of our borders and have a fair immigration policy is to vote Leave on 23 June." In May 2016, Johnson responded to the *Sunday Telegraph* when asked about the EU functioning as a single government: "Napoleon, Hitler, various people tried this out, and it ends tragically. The EU is an attempt to do this by different methods," (Ross, 2014).

Literature Review

Beginning in the early 2000s, research in the United States and the United Kingdom revealed similar trends in attitudes and views regarding immigration. National news coverage affected the public's perception of immigration in both countries which may have led to the UK leaving the EU and may have contributed to Donald Trump's election.

Todd Gitlin of the Columbia University School of Journalism has described media framing as the “principles of selection, emphasis, and presentation composed of little tacit theories about what exists, what happens, and what matters. Media frames are persistent patterns of cognition, interpretation, and presentation, of selection, emphasis, and exclusion, by which symbol-handlers routinely organize discourse, whether verbal or visual,” (Cisneros, 2008). J. David Cisneros studied media representation of immigrants in American news coverage and found that “representations of immigration on major cable news networks like Fox News and CNN often portrayed undocumented immigrants creating an impression that immigrants were piles of potentially dangerous waste or were approaching the viewer as mobile pollutants,” (Cisneros, 2008).

Using newspaper headlines, Bleich, Stonebraker, Nisar, and Abdelhamid compared the tone of British newspaper headlines for stories to compare headlines about Muslims to those about Jews and Christians. They found that headlines affected and reflected “public perceptions of a topic and are particularly likely to influence readers who are most susceptible to having their views shifted by what they read on a topic with which they are unfamiliar.” Although there were some years when media portrayal was more positive than negative, they concluded that overall British media depicted Muslims in a negative way, especially when compared to other religious groups (Bleich, Stonebraker, Nisar, Abdelhamid, 2015).

In a quantitative study of British national media in 2018, Blinder and Jeannet placed immigration coverage into three frames: illegal, Eastern European, and highly skilled. They found that the modifier, “illegal,” was the most likely to be used when describing immigrants in the news. The public viewed immigrants who were described as highly skilled more favorably. In media representations, immigrants were more likely to be portrayed as poor, unskilled, and/or economic migrants despite the fact that immigrants in the United Kingdom have a higher level of education than native-born populations. “Portrayals of migrants as highly skilled workers and as Eastern Europeans had an impact on two politically significant types of perceptions of immigrants. After encountering each of these frames, participants were less likely to think of immigrants as coming to Britain to seek asylum or as residing in Britain illegally (Blinder and Jeannet, 2018).

In 2018, Diana Mutz researched which factors had the largest effect on the American public’s perception of immigrants. In her study, published by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, she concluded that the way immigrants are portrayed in media coverage made a significant difference in the way immigrants were perceived by the American electorate during the 2016 Presidential campaigns. When immigration was covered using mostly numbers and statistics, the public viewed immigration negatively. However, when national media framed immigration through human interest stories with an emotional element, immigrants were more likely to be viewed with empathy and sympathy. Mutz found naming a migrant was likely to promote “more supportive policy opinions than otherwise identical stories about unidentified victims,” (Mutz, 2018). Jones and Kiley concluded that how GOP voters in 2016 felt toward migrants was related to how positively they viewed then-Republican nominee Donald Trump. They found that 59 percent of Republicans who believed that migrants “threaten traditional American customs and values” held warm values toward Donald Trump and 42 percent held

very warm feelings toward him. They also concluded that there was little relationship between GOP voters' views of social issues and how they felt toward Donald Trump (Jones and Kiley, 2016). Then-London Mayor Boris Johnson had such a profound influence on voters that Clarke, Goodwin, and Whiteley named his influence the "Boris Effect" in their book, *Brexit: Why Britain Voted to Leave the European Union*. Johnson had initially supported Britain's EU membership but became an unofficial leader in the Leave Campaign. In May 2016, Johnson responded to the *Sunday Telegraph* when asked about the EU functioning as a single government: "Napoleon, Hitler, various people tried this out, and it ends tragically. The EU is an attempt to do this by different methods," (Ross, 2014).

Clarke, Goodwin, and Whiteley studied how important immigration was to voters during the Brexit campaign and determined that media coverage, whether truthful or not, was extremely influential in the way the public voted in the referendum. They found that "immigration from other EU countries and elsewhere had been a topic of public concern for several years and by early 2016 was seen by most voters as the most pressing issue facing the country" (Clarke, Goodwin, and Whitley, 2017). The UK Independence Party and other right-wing press used images of large numbers of migrants entering Europe in the campaign to justify leaving the EU (Trilling, 2018). The 2015 End of Year YouGov/*The Time* survey found that voters said immigration was the top issue for voters in the referendum (YouGov/*The Times*, 2015). Brexit debates in 2016 revolved around about the ability of Western governments to control immigration, secure borders, and protect citizens from terrorists (Clarke, Goodwin, Whiteley, 2017).

The Leave campaign primarily focused on immigration and used imagery and rhetoric to put migration in a negative light. The two major claims were that "as long as Britain remained in the EU, it would be subject to an unceasing flow of immigrants and accompanying cultural,

economic and security threats,” and “the renewal of democracy and the restoration of sovereignty that would ensue when the UK left the EU,” (Clarke, Goodwin, Whiteley, 2017). Clarke, Goodwin, and Whiteley also found that even though monetary donations to the NHS were a part of the debate, “immigration is especially potent and has a much stronger effect than judgments about the NHS,” (Clarke, Goodwin, Whiteley, 2017). In media, the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) was portrayed as a “reprehensible group of right-wing extremists, whose views are highly unrepresentative of ordinary, decent people,” (Clarke, Goodwin, Whiteley, 2017). While reducing immigration into Britain from the EU and other places is at the center of the UKIP’s belief system, their anti-immigration beliefs were common among the electorate (Clarke, Goodwin, Whiteley, 2017).

Immigration was at the center of both the 2016 Brexit referendum and the 2016 United States presidential race. Media coverage, specifically the type of media coverage, had the greatest influence on how both electorates viewed immigrants and migration, and how they took those views to the polls. Another important factor in the electorates’ views of immigration was political rhetoric and how the rhetoric was covered in media. Based on the literature, there were two types of specific media coverage that affected the electorate’s views of immigration: how political rhetoric was covered in the media and how prevalent terrorist attacks were covered in media.

Papcharissi and Oliveira compared U.S. and UK news coverage of terrorist attacks. Using the *Washington Post* and *New Yorker*, they found that after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, American news sources were more likely to report on terrorism through an American military lens. The *New Yorker* mentioned military successes in the Middle East and the *Post* focused on military action. Journalists were more likely to use government documents as sources for stories, while British journalists rarely used government documents when covering terrorism.

UK coverage of terrorism was significantly different. British coverage used a diplomatic frame. British coverage was primarily editorials and analyses. It also focused on terrorism on an international level compared to American coverage, which focused mostly on American issues (Papcharissi and Oliveira, 2008).

Betus, Kearns, and Lemieux found that media was more likely to cover terrorist attacks in the United State if a Muslim was the perpetrator, which caused Americans to have a less favorable view of Muslims immigrants. Kimberly Powell found in “Framing Islam: An Analysis of the U.S. Media Cover of Terrorism Since 9/11” that eleven of the terrorist attacks on U.S. soil, the perpetrator was identified and “revealed a pattern of media coverage of terrorism in which fear of international terrorism is dominant, particularly as Muslims/Arabs/Islam working together in organized terrorist cells against a ‘Christian America,’ while domestic terrorism is a cast as a minor threat that occurs in isolated incidents by troubled individuals,” (Powell, 2011). Through her analysis, she discovered a clear pattern between attacks with a Muslim perpetrator with international ties and an American citizen perpetrator.

Terence Wright studied the framing of Muslim-perpetrated attacks following the attack on September 11, 2001. Specifically, after the London bombings in July 2005, “alleged plots were framed as belonging to the Muslim communities disrupted by police operations, replacing a discourse of immigration and asylum.” British journalists contributed to this frame by using perspectives of local Muslim communities. British media also used the word “terrorist” to describe attacks, even if the plots studied had not proven to be a credible threat. According to Taylor and Francis’ research, “media coverage of alleged plots seldom reflected on the outcome of previous high-profile police raids,” (Wright, 2015).

Veteran British journalist Daniel Trilling spent months traveling around Europe, interviewing migrants beginning in 2012 and lasting five years. He traveled with migrants as

well as spending time in camps to better understand the journeys and lives of those who came to Europe to improve their lives. He traced anti-immigration media coverage in Europe, including coverage of terrorist attacks and events, specifically the Paris attacks on November 13, 2015 two shipwrecks off the coast of Libya on November 3, 2016. Despite the fact that most of the Muslim perpetrators of the Paris attacks were French-born and Belgium-born, the increased media coverage caused politicians to begin advocating for stronger borders. On New Year's Eve 2015, a group of refugees committed robberies and sexual assaults in several German cities (Trilling, 2018). Trilling concluded that the attacks was used by some as justification for "a flood of paranoid racist fantasy about the threat imposed by migrants of Muslim background, elevating the crimes of a few to a civilizational threat. The sentiment was echoed, albeit in quieter tones, by a wide range of European media" (Trilling, 2018, 252).

Terence Wright from the Refugee Studies Centre at the University of Oxford researched how the media coverage specifically covered the refugee crisis in Afghanistan during 2001. He found that Afghanistan only appeared in British news when it directly affected British concerns or American concerns. This was a common trend among British news coverage of third world countries. Similar to imagery used in the Vote Leave campaign, the BBC used "non-specific footage of refugees at the Pakistan border." Coverage like this perpetrated stereotypes of refugees and were an "attempt to provide a general representation that does not allow the viewer to get close enough to the individual behind them."

Beginning in 2004, immigration began to become the most important issue for the British electorate (Clarke, Goodwin, Whiteley, 2018). By December 2016, immigration was the most important issues for 63 percent of the electorate (YouGov, 2015). Another factor for concern was that net migration (the difference between the number of people arriving and leaving) had reached the record level of 336,000. The government announced this number in the end of 2015,

only six months before the June Brexit referendum. A YouGov survey found that 69 percent of voters believed net migration was too high (YouGov, 2015).

The 2016 referendum was not the first time the UK voted on membership in the EU. The first referendum happened in 1975, when the UK voted to remain in the European Community. At the time, “support for membership was wide but it did not run deep,” (Clarke, Goodwin, Whiteley, 2018). Clarke, Goodwin, and Whiteley researched how rhetoric from British politicians while campaigning affected the voter perception of immigration. They found that political rhetoric had an impact on the referendum, but many of the attitudes were already present.

Methodology

The literature review shows that there are similar frames in media coverage between immigration in the UK and the U.S. This research seeks to find similarities and differences between British news coverage of immigration and American news coverage of immigration. I analyzed news content from six news sources, three British and three American, to find similarities in wording among the sources. By counting the number of times certain words were mentioned in content, I was able to assign articles numerical values to then compare media coverage of immigration. The methodology allowed content to be assigned to categories to measure how often journalists covered themes in coverage.

Using a content analysis, I examine new stories from British and American news sources within a two-week period of the Brexit referendum and 2016 presidential election. A content analysis is useful for such research because it describes “attitudinal and behavioral responses to communications and describe trends in communication content,” (Weaver, 1990). By using specific words commonly used when covering immigration, articles can be scored and quantified and then compared. The content analysis allows articles to be assigned a numeric value based on certain words used in the article. Using the numerical values, the articles can be ranked from more negative coverage to more positive coverage of immigration.

The coding scoring allowed the content to be presented on the same scale and reveals trends within each news source and how their content compared to other news sources. In my research, sources were assigned a numerical value to reflect if the writer used certain adjectives and nouns when describing immigrants or immigration. Content was given 0.5 point per each mention of “illegal/illegally” or “migrant/migration” and a whole point if the words were mentioned in the headline. Content was given -0.5 point per each mention of “undocumented,”

“skilled,” or “refugee” and a whole point if the words were mentioned in the headline. Content was marked “affirmative” in the financial category if it mentioned the cost of immigration on the country. This was defined as mention of the economic cost on the welfare system, the public education system, or the cost of border security, including additional fencing or hiring more personnel. Content was marked “negative” if it had no mention of the economic consequences. Content was marked “affirmative” in the numbers category if the writer discussed the number of immigrants entering the country. Numbers were defined as integers or percentages. The article was marked negative if there was no mention of the number of immigrants or the content was a feature on a single immigrant or small group. Top trends are identified by the criteria mentioned in the methodology and are used to compare media coverage from the United Kingdom and the United States.

For the content analysis, 15 articles from six different news sources were chosen. Three of the sources American: *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and *USA Today*. The other three sources were from the United Kingdom: *The Times*, *The Guardian*, and the BBC online.

Article Selection

The analysis began with collecting all the content from each news sources within the weeklong period prior and after the respective election dates. For Brexit, the content fell between June 16, 2016, and June 30, 2016. For the American presidential election, the content fell between November 1, 2016 and November 15, 2016.

Selection Criteria

To locate articles for the content analysis, I searched for “immigration,” “illegal,” “unskilled,” “migrant,” “undocumented,” in the American Search Complete, MasterFILE Complete, Gale in Context, Supplemental Index, and Newspaper Source Plus databases provided by LSU Libraries online collection. Searching the above-listed sources during the two-week period produced. Next, I organized these stories chronologically, by most recent content, and separated the findings by news organization. Content was deemed relevant for the analysis if it met the following criteria:

- Publication date falls within the two-week period of the election
- Articles discussed immigration in the United Kingdom or America
- Both opinion pieces and news articles were included in the analysis

In the case of excess article- there were more than 15 relevant works, pieces were organized beginning with the most recent article. The number of articles available were divided by 15, and every 15th article was chosen for the analysis.

Article Review

Articles were objectively evaluated by using a standardized coding method: Articles began with a 0 base and points were added or subtracted based on the analysis of the story. The numerical value of a piece was determined by the number of times “illegal,” “unskilled,” “migrant,” or “undocumented” was mentioned in a piece. Content was marked “negative” or “affirmative” in two categories: financial and numbers.

Scoring

Articles were given a +0.5 per each mention of “illegal” or “migrant” and -0.5 per each mention of “undocumented.” Articles were given +1 if the words “illegal” or “migrant” were mentioned in the headline and -1 if the word “undocumented” was listed in the headline. As discussed in Blinder and Jeannet’s research, “The ‘illegal’ and the skilled: effects of media portrayals on perceptions of immigrants in Britain,” words mentioned in the headline had a greater effect on perception than the content in the article. The point distinction allowed for the content analysis to differentiate if a certain word was the emphasis of a story if in the headline, or just mentioned in the content. This method allowed the articles to be ranked and scaled from negative coverage to more positive coverage.

Categories

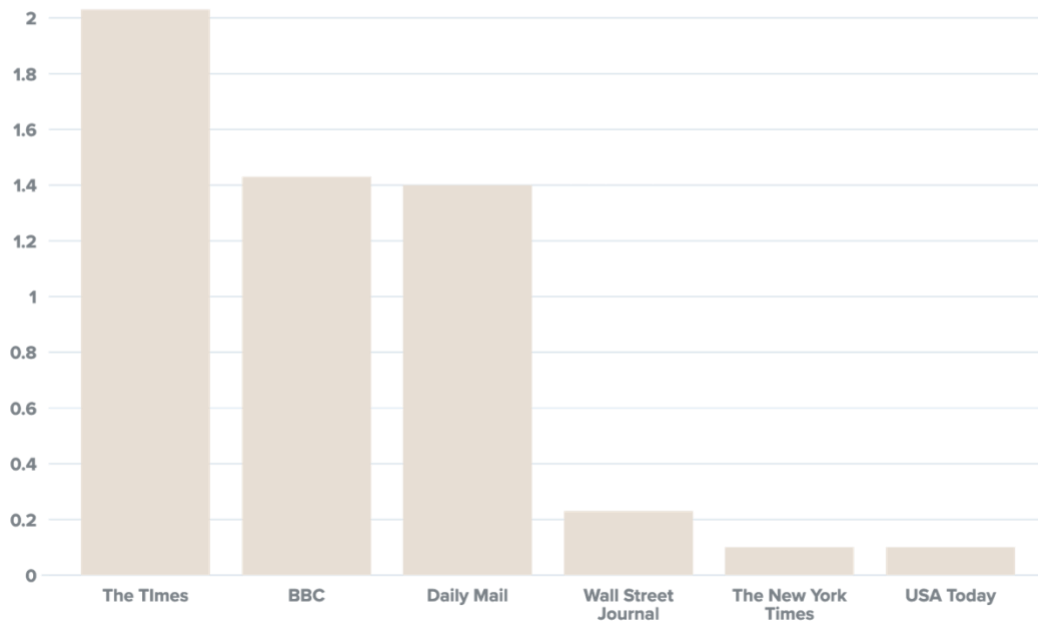
As found in Clarke, Goodwin, and Whiteley’s research, the mention of the economic consequences of affected the electorate’s perception of immigration. Content was marked “negative” if it did not have a mention of the economic consequences. Content was marked “affirmative” in the numbers category if the writer discussed the number of immigrants entering the country. Numbers were defined as integers or percentages. The article was marked negative if there was not mention of the number of immigrants or the content was a feature on a single immigrant or small group.

Result of Analysis

Scoring

The news sources are ranked below beginning with the highest score and ending with the lowest score. Each news sources score was found by finding the average of all the content from each piece.

Article Scoring

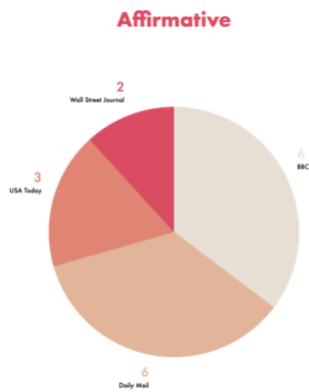


Based on the scoring methodology, British news sources, when covering immigration, used language such as “migrant” and “illegal” more often when describing the immigrants entering the UK and other EU countries. Content from *The Times* used “migrant” more than “immigrant.” Often in the content, “migrant” was used throughout the entire story. American news sources tended to use a more balanced vocabulary. American news sources tended to the

words “illegal” and “undocumented” more often when writing about immigration, which accounts for a lower score for the American news sources.

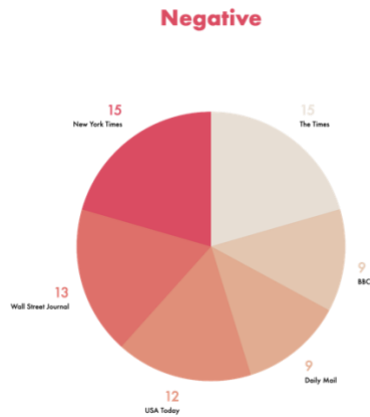
Financial Cost of Immigration

Affirmative



**The Times* and the *New York Times* had zero articles marked affirmative.

Negative



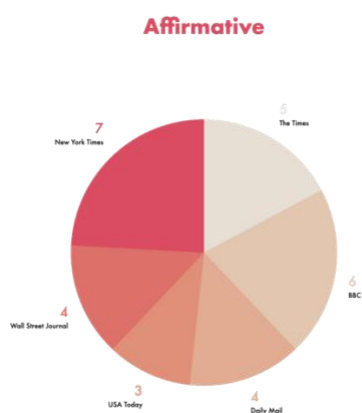
The financial category was created based on “The ‘illegal’ and the skilled: effects of media portrayals on perceptions of immigrants in Britain” from the literature review.

Researchers who had previously explored this topic found that news sources covering the financial cost of immigration caused readers to express a negative view of immigration. Based on my content analysis, the American news sources examined were less likely than British sources to discuss the economic consequences of immigration. Among British sources, *The Times* did not mention the financial consequences of immigration, but *The Daily Mail* and the *BBC* did.

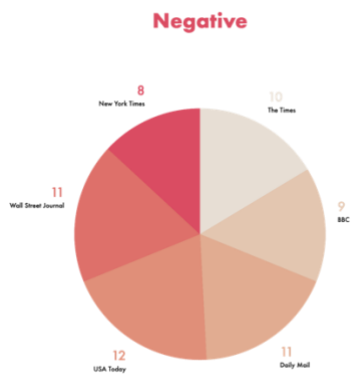
Framing Category

This category was prompted by findings from Blinder and Jeannet’s research in the literature review. If news sources discussed immigration in terms of numbers versus personal stories of immigrants.

Affirmative



Negative



Regarding the use of numbers to describe immigration, there was not a statistically significant difference between how British and American news sources described the numbers of immigrants. There was also not much difference among each source.

Conclusions

Content Analysis Conclusions

Scoring Comparisons

After performing the content analysis, I concluded that American news coverage was more balanced with use of modifiers than British news sources. All of the American news sources scored below 1.0, while all the British news sources scored between 1.4 and 2.03. British journalists were more likely to use negative-leaning words such as “illegal” and “migrant” when covering immigration. Based on previous research from the literature review, usage of words such as “undocumented” or “illegal” or “unskilled” gave content consumers a negative view of immigrants. The articles from the American sources used more balanced vocabulary, with all of the articles using a mixture of the words “illegal” and “undocumented.” British news sources were, overall, more anti-immigration biased than American news sources. Media coverage in both countries leaned negative.

Financial Category

British news sources were more likely than American news sources to mention the financial consequences of immigrants. Both the *BBC* and *The Daily Mail* had nine articles mention the financial burden, while six did not. However, *The Times* did not publish any articles in this time period that mentioned the financial cost. This included the cost on the welfare system, border security costs, and the public-school system. *The Wall Street Journal* mentioned the financial cost most, with 13 articles. *USA Today* published 13 articles that mentioned cost and the *New York Times* did not have an article mention the cost of immigrants during this

period. I conclude that there was not a significant difference between British media and American media regarding the financial category for immigration coverage.

Framing Category

Mutz found that human-interest stories versus reporting immigration in numbers affects the public's perception of immigration. Both news sources from both countries followed similar trends in this category. Both American and British news stories did not report the number of immigrants coming into the country. In each news source, more than half of the stories from the source did not cover the number of immigrants or told a human feature story. I conclude that there was not a significant difference between British media and American media in the framing category for immigration coverage.

Study Limitations

The analysis did not include television news coverage or news coverage from social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, and more. The news sources were only national news platforms. No local news coverage was used in the analysis.

Shortcomings

The design of the methodology was to accommodate the news sources available through the American Search Collection database provide by the LSU library online collection. If redesigned, the methodology could include categories such as partisan leanings or local sources versus national sources.

Additional Research Opportunities

The study could be extended to non-traditional news sources, television and local news. This would allow the researcher to see how local communities viewed immigration and how they voted. The time frame could also be expanded to see trends over time of immigration coverage. The study could also be expanded to study how media coverage affected public opinion. This could be done by performing a research group and using public opinion polls.

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Appendix

Category	U.S. Sponsor	Relationship	Numerical Limit
Immediate Relatives	U.S. Citizen adult	Spouse, unmarried minor children and parents	Unlimited

Preference Allocation

1	U.S. citizen	Unmarried adult children	23,400*
2A	Permanent Resident	Spouses and minor children	87,900
2B	Permanent Resident	Unmarried adult children	26,300
3	U.S. citizen	Married adult children	23,400**
4	U.S. citizen	Brothers and sisters	65,000***

*Plus any unused visas from the 4th preference

**Plus any unused visas from the 1st and 2nd preference

***Plus any unused visas from all other family-based preferences

Preference Category	Eligibility	Yearly Numerical Limit
1	“Persons of extraordinary ability” in the arts, science, education, business or athletics; outstanding professors and researchers, multinational executives and managers	40,040*
2	Members of the professions holding advanced degrees, or persons of exceptional ability in the arts, science, or business.	40,040**
3	Skilled workers with at least two years of training or experience, professionals with college degrees, or “other” workers for unskilled labor that is not temporary or seasonal	40,040*** “Other” unskilled laborers restricted to 5,000
4	Certain “special immigrants” including religious workers, employees of U.S. foreign service posts, former U.S. government employees and other classes of foreign nationals	9,940

5	Persons who will invest \$500,000 to \$1 million in a job-creating enterprise that employs at least 10 full time U.S. workers. For petitions filed on or after 11/21/2019 the investment amounts increase to \$900,000 to \$1.8 million, with future increases at specified intervals. 16	9,940
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*Plus any unused visas from the 4th and 5th preferences.

**Plus any unused visas from the 1st preference.

***Plus any unused visas from the 1st and 2nd preferences

Characteristics	Tradeable	Points
Offer of job by approved sponsor	No	20
Job at appropriate skill level	No	20
Speaks English at required level	No	10
Salary of 20,480 (minimum) euros to 23,039 euros	Yes	0
Salary of 23,040 euros to 25,599 euros	Yes	10
Salary of 25,600 euros or above	Yes	20
Job in a shortage occupation (as designated by the MAC)	Yes	20
Education qualification: PhD in subject relevant to the job	Yes	10
Education qualification: PhD in a STEM relevant to the job	Yes	20

Beginning in 2021, a migrant's journey into the UK will include the following steps:

Step	Journey Stage	Migrant Actions
1	Planning to come	EU citizens and non-visa nationals will not require a visa to enter the country when visiting. All migrants looking to enter the UK for other reasons (such as work or study) must apply for permission in advance. Those who come to the UK as a visitor must leave the country before making an application to another route.
2	Getting permission	For those who need a visa, migrants will make their application online. Most EU citizens will complete their application online, while non-EU citizens will continue to go to Visa Application Centres (VACs) to enroll their biometrics.
3	Crossing the UK border	Citizens of Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, and the USA, who possess biometric passports, will continue to use e-gates to pass through the UK border either as a visitor or with prior permission. The UK will also unilaterally allow EU citizens to continue to use e-gates, but will keep this policy under review. Others will need to see a Border Force officer.
4	Living in the UK	EU citizens will use the online checking service to demonstrate their immigration status and their rights and entitlements, where permitted, when accessing work and services in the UK. For many EU citizens, their status will automatically be available when seeking to access benefits or the NHS. Non-EU citizens will continue to use their physical documentation.
5	Leaving the UK	Leaving the UK after leave has expired, or not leaving at all when required to, will impact a migrant's immigration status and will affect future interactions with UK immigration.