

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

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Stigmatization and racial selection after September 11, 2001: self-identity among Arab and Islamic Americans

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Abstract

During the 2000s Arab and Islamic American racial identity selection was subjected to an exogenous racializing event, viz., public and private reaction to the Al Qaeda attacks of September 11, 2001. The Al Qaeda attacks clearly demarcate a period in which there was a structural increase in the intensity of US stigmatization of persons with Islamic religious affiliation and Arab ethnicity. This stigmatization created an exogenous reduction in the expected payoff to acculturation relative to non-acculturation. This paper uses self-identification as white as its measure of acculturation and the fraction of all hate crimes directed at Muslims as its measure of stigmatization after 9/11. Comparing 2002–2012 to 1996–2001, there is a statistically significant and substantively large decrease in the unconditional and conditional probabilities that Arab and Islamic Americans will self-identify as white. The data are combined cross sections of the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Jel codes: J11, J15, Z13

Keywords: Race; Identity; Arab; Muslim; Islam; September 11

1. Introduction

Economists have long known that racial identity, whether self-selected or assigned, is a statistically significant and substantively large explanatory variable for a wide variety of social and economic outcomes. A strong consensus has emerged among modern evolutionary biologists that human racial categories represent a social construct, not a biological datum (Lewontin 2006; Graves 2006). Biologists have no objective means for assigning various human populations to discrete racial groups. Social dominance creates different environmental conditions for the emergence and persistence of socially constructed races in America (Graves 2006). Consequently, for empirical economists, race is an important explanatory variable in regression models of social outcomes; yet, the empirical insights from evolutionary biology are that race is also a dependent variable.

An empirical examination of recent changes in racial self-identity among Arab and Islamic Americans presents an opportunity to address this empirical challenge. Arab and Islamic Americans are overlapping and diverse populations. There are of 3.5 million Arab Americans, with ancestral origins in all 22 Arab countries (Arab American 2014). Sixty

percent are Christians, 24% are Muslims, 13% other religions, and the rest are unaffiliated. Eighty percent of Arabs are citizens and 40% are college educated. Arab Americans are relatively affluent, with a mean income 22% above the national average. There are 2–7 million Muslim Americans (Lipka 2014; U.S. Department of State 2014). They represent the most racially diverse religious group in the America. No single racial or ethnic identity applies to more than 30% of the Muslim American population. Most (63%) are first generation immigrants, coming from at least 77 different countries. Eighty-one percent are citizens. African American Muslims, that is, adherents to the Islamic faith whose cultural roots extend back to American slavery, are variously considered to be one-fifth to one-third of the total for all Muslim Americans (U.S. Department of State 2014). Muslims represent the fastest growing segment of the Arab population. Muslim American education and income are close to the national average: 24% have college degrees and median income is about \$50,000.

Excluding African American Muslims and focusing solely on persons with ancestral origins in predominately Muslim countries, the US Arab and Islamic populations have a high percentage of first and second generation immigrants seeking to integrate into and acculturate into the American society. An important element of their acculturation involves negotiating the white-black racial identity norm that is everywhere present in American society. For this study, America's Arab and Islamic population consists of a heterogeneous group of people whose ancestral origins are mostly Northern Africa and Western Asia, but who also include sub-groups from Europe, sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, and Eastern Asia. Some are ethnic Arabs, but many are not. For example, most of the people of Iran are ethnic Persians. Some Arab and Islamic Americans have very dark skin shade, for example, North Africans and Pakistanis, but many much less so. Despite differences in ethnicity, nativity, skin shade, and religion, all persons of North African and West Asian ancestry are classified as "white" in the US Census (Office of Management and Budget 1997). Further, all are subject to anti-Muslim and anti-Arab stereotypes – even those who are neither Arab nor Muslim. But, many members of this population do not self-identify as white and recent historical events may have had a substantial effect on racial self-identity.

During the 2000s Arab and Islamic American racial identity was subjected to three sets of large scale racializing events: 1) the public and private reaction to the Al Qaeda attacks of September 11, 2001 ("9/11"); 2) the US invasion of Iraq during March 19, 2003 – May 1, 2003, the controversial war that followed, and its discussion in the 2004 elections; and, 3) the racially charged US presidential election of 2008, where an African American Christian with a Muslim father and an Islamic name was elected President of the United States, as well as the congressional election of 2010. The Al Qaeda attacks were the initial exogenous events, clearly demarcating a period whereby there was a structural increase in the intensity of US stigmatization of persons with Islamic religious affiliation and Arab ethnicity. The political events of 2003–2004 and 2008–2010 reinforced the stigmatization ushered in after 9/11. This stigmatization created an exogenous reduction in the expected payoff to acculturation relative to non-acculturation. To the extent that self-identifying as white reflects Arab and Islamic acculturation into American society, we should observe a discrete reduction in the fraction of Arab and Islamic Americans self-identifying as white during the years following 2001.

The post-9/11 events are a natural experiment that corresponds closely to an exogenous reduction in the public's willingness to accept Arab and Islamic acculturation into US society. This paper tests whether these racializing events altered the distribution of racial identities among Arab and Islamic Americans. We use nearly two decades of cross-sectional microdata (1996–2012) from the March Supplement to the Current Population Survey. Hence, we are able to examine Arab and Islamic racial self-identification for a substantial period before and after the epochal events of September 11, 2001. Respondent and parental nativity variables allow easy identification of a large sample of 1st and 2nd generation Americans. Although we cannot completely identify 3rd and higher generation Arab and Islamic Americans, language usage, religion, or skin shade, we do find that our results are robust with respect to ancestral origin. Separating the sample according to the timing of racializing events and comparing 2002–2012 to 1996–2001, there is a statistically significant decrease in the unconditional and conditional probability that Arab and Islamic Americans will self-identify as white.

2. Stigmatization after 9/11

Individuals from Greater Syria were the first major wave of Arab immigrants to the US, mostly during 1878–1948 (Cainkar 2002a; Majaj 2000). Most of these early Arab immigrants were Christian. Assimilation and access to the full set of opportunities available in America required becoming a citizen. At the height of the first wave of Arab immigration into the US (1888–1914), one had to be white to be a citizen (except, freedmen and their descendants). Asians were explicitly excluded from whiteness and, hence, not eligible for citizenship. West Asian immigrants argued that they were Caucasian and therefore white, even if Asian. Through a series of court cases, culminating in *George Dow v. United States 1915*, Syrians were legally declared white.

Prior to the creation of Israel in 1948 neither national politics nor foreign affairs had much effect on Arab integration into American society. After that, Arabs in the US were subjected to “political and legal discrimination and monitoring, both by the US government and by private groups (Akram 2002:90).” Nevertheless, Arab immigrants did not develop strong ethnic institutions until the late 1960s and early 1970s. So, although the political concerns surrounding American foreign policies did shape Arab and Muslim integration into American society during 1948 – 1972, Arabs and Muslims were able to integrate into American society and acculturate into white racial identity. During the period from 1972 – September 11, 2001, domestic American politics combined with foreign affairs to redefine the identities of Arab and Islamic immigrants away from their ancestral origins and more toward globalized Pan-Arab, Pan-Muslim, or “Middleastern” identity. But, the shift from ancestral identities toward globalized identities did not affect racial self-identification as white.

Post-September 11, 2001

We may think of a racializing event as a macroeconomic and historically substantial social phenomenon that is outside of the gradual evolutionary change associated with social interactions; an exogenous stigmatizing action or set of actions such that there is a discrete increase in the expected payoff of own-group altruism and a discrete increase in the cost of other-group antagonism. As such, a racializing event increases an agent's expected payoff to playing an own-group racial identity strategy rather than playing an

acculturation strategy (Darity, Mason, Stewart, 2006). Further, when the precipitating cause of a racializing event is unanticipated, such as the attacks of September 11, 2001, the ex post stigmatization is a natural experiment, exogenous to the evolutionary process of racial identity selection.

Arab and Muslim Americans were subject to substantial stigmatization post-9/11. Among other areas of American life, this stigmatization occurred in federal public policies, social interactions across the country, and labor market treatment. For example, the federal public policy response to the Al Qaeda attacks involved an invasive set of government policies specifically targeting Arabs and Muslims.

In reference to the period immediately following September 11, 2001, Cainkar (2002a) writes that, “Of the roughly 20 rule changes, executive orders and laws affecting immigrants or non-immigrant visitors, 15 predominantly target Arabs.” Table 1 lists some of these policies¹. Shortly after the attacks more than 1,200 Muslim and Arab citizens were detained. Most of these citizens were males of Pakistani and Egyptian ancestry. None were terrorists: 100 were held on minor crimes and 500 were held on immigration violations. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) adopted new rules that would allow the federal government to indefinitely detain non-citizens; those detained were disproportionately Arabs and Muslims.

On November 9, 2001, the DOJ mailed interview requests to 5,000 Arab and Muslim males, 18 – 33 years of age, who arrived in America after January 2000 on student, work, or tourist visas. These were nominally voluntary interviews. Most recipients complied: 5 people declined to be interviewed, 104 letters returned because of incorrect addresses. None of the interviews supplied information on the September 11 attacks. The same month the US Department of State slowed the visa process for males ages 16 – 45 from Arab and Muslim countries. Further, the INS engaged in mass

Table 1 Selected post-September 11, 2001 federal policies targeting Arab and Islamic Americans

Date	Policy or action
Within weeks of September 11, 2001	1,200+ Muslim and Arab citizens were arrested and detained.
September 20, 2001	New rule allowing INS to indefinitely detain non-citizens
November 9, 2001	DOJ “issued guidelines for “voluntary” interviews of non-citizen men in the US on nonimmigrant visas from countries suspected of harboring terrorists” (all Arab or Muslim).
November 2001	State department announced it had slowed the process for granting visas to men ages 16–45 from certain Arab and Muslim countries
November 2001	INS announced mass arrests of nonimmigrant students who had violated terms of their visas National origins of students included only Iran, Syria, Pakistan, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, and Yemen
December 5, 2001	DOJ directs INS round up 6,000 “young Arab men” who had ignored deportation orders.
March 20, 2002	DOJ announces plans to interview another 3,000 Arab and Muslim men for “voluntary” interviews. Men are ages 18 – 33 who have entered the US since September 11, 2001.
August 12, 2002	The fingerprinting and registry initiative announced for persons from select Arab and Muslim countries (Cainkar, 2002a).
On May 26, 2004	Attorney General John Ashcroft and FBI Director Robert Mueller announced that the FBI would launch a new round of nationwide interviews in Muslim communities (American Civil Liberties Union, 2004).

Source: Akram (2002) is the primary source for dates and items included in this table.

arrests of students who had violated the terms of their visas; all of these students were from Iran, Syria, Pakistan, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, and Yemen.

By the first week of December 2001 the DOJ was once again rounding up young Arab and Muslim males for deportation. Specifically, INS rounded up 6,000 “Arab men” who had ignored deportation orders. During Spring 2002 the DOJ started “voluntary” interviews of another 3,000 Arab and Muslim males. These men were 18 – 33 years of age and had entered the US after the attacks of September 11, 2001.

Cainkar (2002a) reports that on August 12, 2002 the DOJ finalized plans requiring thousands of visitors from predominately Muslim nations to provide fingerprints to the US government upon arrival in the country and to register with INS after 30 days. Otherwise lawful visitors who failed to provide fingerprints or to register with the INS could be fined or deported.

During Spring 2004 the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) once again decided to round up Arabs and Muslims for “voluntary” interviews. On May 28 it was revealed that the Justice Department had targeted 5,000 Muslims and Arabs for questioning, questioning based on religion and ethnicity, and not on individualized criminal suspicion (American Civil Liberties Union 2004).

The social interaction response to the Al Qaeda attacks involved nationwide violence against Arabs and Muslims. The FBI records hate crimes by race, ethnicity/national origin (principally, Hispanic or Non-Hispanic), religion, sexual orientation, and disability status. Table 2 presents total hate crimes by year, 1996 – 2011, as well as hate crimes against selected groups: whites, blacks, Hispanics, Jews, Catholics, and Muslims². The FBI does not record hate crimes against Arabs, Sikhs, Hindus, or others that Americans often mistake for Arabs or Muslims. Hence, the hate crimes recorded in Table 2 under-represent the extent of hate crimes directed at Arab and Islamic Americans.

Table 2 Hate crimes against selected groups, 1996-2011

Year	White	Black	Hispanic	Jewish	Catholic	Islamic
1996	12.6%	42.0%	6.4%	12.7%	0.4%	0.3%
1997	12.3%	38.8%	6.1%	13.5%	0.4%	0.4%
1998	10.2%	37.4%	6.2%	14.0%	0.8%	0.3%
1999	9.9%	37.6%	5.9%	14.1%	0.5%	0.4%
2000	10.9%	35.8%	6.9%	13.8%	0.7%	0.4%
2001	9.2%	29.8%	6.1%	10.7%	0.4%	5.0%
2002	9.6%	33.3%	6.4%	12.5%	0.7%	2.1%
2003	11.1%	34.0%	5.7%	12.4%	1.0%	2.0%
2004	10.9%	35.7%	6.2%	12.5%	0.8%	2.0%
2005	11.6%	36.7%	7.3%	11.8%	0.8%	1.8%
2006	11.5%	34.2%	7.5%	12.5%	1.0%	2.0%
2007	9.8%	34.9%	7.8%	12.7%	0.8%	1.5%
2008	9.2%	37.0%	7.2%	13.0%	1.0%	1.4%
2009	8.3%	34.6%	7.3%	14.1%	0.8%	1.6%
2010	8.7%	33.2%	8.1%	13.4%	0.9%	2.4%
2011	8.1%	33.4%	6.5%	12.4%	1.1%	2.5%

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, “Hate Crimes,” http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/civilrights/hate_crimes. Total is for single-bias incidents.

During 1996 – 2011 hate crimes more or less consistently trended downward for whites and blacks. Hate crimes against whites were 12.64% of all hate crimes in 1996 and 8.11% of all hate crimes in 2011, with total hate crimes against whites dropping from 1106 to 504. Similarly, hate crimes against African Americans decreased from 42% of all hate crimes to 33% of all hate crimes, with total hate crimes dropping from 3674 to 2076. For blacks and whites, there were only very minor increases in hate crimes between 2000 and 2001; in each case, the percentage relative to the total declined. Hate crimes against Jews have more or less remained constant during 1996 – 2011, staying near 12 – 13% of the annual total but declining from 14% of the total in 2000 to 11% during 2001. Hate crimes against Hispanics and Catholics followed a similar pattern; indeed, hate crimes against Catholics fell from 0.70% of the total in 2000 to 0.39% in 2001.

By contrast, anti-Islamic hate crimes sky-rocketed in 2001 and have remained high ever since. During 1996–2000, anti-Islamic hate crimes were about 1/3 of 1% of all hate crimes. But, for the year 2001 this number rose to nearly 5%. Total anti-Islamic hate crimes rose from nearly 30 per year to 481 for 2001. Anti-Islamic hate crimes declined from 4.95% of the total in 2001 to 2.08% in 2002, but anti-Islamic hate crimes have shown no signs of returning to pre-9/11 levels.

Post-9/11, there has been an increase in labor market discrimination against Arabs, Muslims, and persons of Middle-Eastern descent, especially during the years immediately following the attacks. Davila and Mora (2005) examine the earnings of men in the US, ages 25–40 with ancestral origins in Arab countries, as well as Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran. All men included in their sample worked at least 20 hours per week and at least 32 weeks per year. The earnings of the Arab and Islamic American males are compared to the earnings of US born Non-Hispanic white males. Comparing the change in relative earnings between 2000 and 2002, they find that the Middle Eastern Arab earnings differential moves from -0.152 log points for 2000 to -0.584 log points for 2002, a statistically significant and substantively large decline of 0.432 log points. The African Arab differential is -0.436 log points for 2000 and -0.484 log points for 2002, a statistically insignificant and small decline of 0.048 log points. The Other (Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran) differential is -0.139 log points for 2000 and -0.429 log points for 2002, a statistically significant and substantively large decline of 0.290 log points. Further, Davila and Mora report that a state's Arab population density had no statistically significant effect on Middle Eastern Arab earnings differential in 2000, but it did have a statistically significant and substantively large effect in 2002. Arab concentration had no statistically significant effect on either the African Arab coefficient or the Other coefficient. Finally, Davila and Mora find that the male earnings decline was "fairly symmetrical for workers" at all deciles of the earnings distribution.

Rabby and Rodgers (2011) also find deteriorating wage and employment effects for Arab and Muslim males in their examination of post-9/11 labor market discrimination. They find no wage and employment effects for women. However, Rabby and Rodgers find that during 1999–2002, the relative natural log of wages for Arab and Muslim men declined by 0.142 points. During 1999–2004, the relative natural log of wages for Arab and Muslims declined by 0.09 points, though this difference had only a 10% level of significance. Finally, for 1999–2004, Arab and Muslim males 16 – 25 years of age had a relative employment decline of 0.379 points.

For their sample of males 21–54 years of age, Kaushal et al. (2007) find no stigmatization effect for male employment or hours worked³. However, there is a negative effect for male log of hourly earnings (9 – 12%) and log weekly wages (11 – 14%). Within the first 12 months after September 11, the male hourly wage and weekly wage effects are negative, significant, and substantively large (9 – 11%). The effects are of the same magnitudes for 13–24 and 25–36 months after the attack but are not significant. Comparing September 2004 with September 1997, there is a statistically significant weekly wage decline of 9% for men.

Kaushal, et al. report that there are no statistically significant differences in results when the data are restricted to foreign born Arabs and Muslims. However, there are statistically significant different effects when the sample is separated by men living in above median intolerance states (high hate crime incidence) versus living in below median intolerance states (low hate crime incidence). The negative wage effect increases by 11% in high intolerance states, while the weekly earnings effect increases by 13-14%. The wage effect is 6-7% in low intolerance states, while the weekly earnings effect is 7-8%. But, the results for the low intolerance states are not statistically significant.

Kaushal et al. (2007) find that the size and significance of wage effects are robust to using hate crimes per Arab and Muslim population or hate crimes per total population. In states with high hate crimes, September 11 is associated with a 11% reduction in the wages of Arab and Islamic men though it is associated with a 6-9% wage reduction in states with a low incidence of hate crimes. However, the difference in these point estimates is not significant. They also report evidence of a post-9/11 decline in intrastate migration of Arab and Muslim men. Nevertheless, September 11 is not associated with interstate moves from high hate crimes states to low hate crime states.

Gould and Klor (2013) use per capita hate crimes, that is, total hate crimes against Muslims relative to the size of the Arab and Islamic population in a state during a given year, to examine changes in measures of assimilation among the US Arab and Islamic population. Gould and Klor argue that hate crimes increase the cost of assimilation, while increasing the return to investing in social capital within an Arab or Islamic American's own community. These incentives lower rates of assimilation.

Consider inter-marriage as one indicator of assimilation, which is defined as the fraction of Arab and Islamic Americans married to someone who does not have ancestral origins in a predominately Muslim country. Gould and Klor find that post-9/11 mean per capita hate crimes reduce Arab and Islamic inter-marriage by 8.3% and 13.1% for men and women, respectively, relative to their respective means in 2000⁴.

Collectively considered, there is evidence of extraordinary stigmatization of Arab and Islamic Americans during the post-9/11 period. Aggressive federal policies made young Arab and Islamic males subject to strong criminal suspicion and adverse legal treatment. Social interactions displayed a discrete and large scale increase in intolerance as anti-Muslim hate crimes rose to historical highs and never fully returned to pre-9/11 levels. After the attacks of September 11, 2001 there was an increase in the wage penalty associated with being a person of Arab and Islamic descent, along with evidence of some deterioration in employment among very young males and evidence that Arab and Islamic men were pushed out of high wage industries into low wage industries. These outcomes suggest the formation of an economy with a lower payoff to acculturation for Arab and Islamic Americans: in comparison to the pre-9/11 era,

Arab and Islamic Americans were less likely to be accepted as white and were less likely to opt for a white identity rather than a non-white identity.

3. The model

Consider the random variable $Y = \{y_1 = 0 \text{ (white)}, y_2 = 1 \text{ (non-white)}\}$. Per Darity, Mason, and Stewart (2006), for a sample of Arab and Islamic Americans.

$\Pr(Y = y_j|X) = E(\text{fraction of Arab and Islamic Americans seeking to acculturate into a white identity}[-], \text{fraction of Non-Arab and Non-Islamic American ancestry groups willing to accept Arab and Islamic acculturation}[-], \text{fraction of social interactions with Arab Americans}[+], \text{free rider capacity}[-], \text{benefits of own-group racial altruism}[+], \text{costs of other-group racial antagonism}[-]) + u = E(X) + u$, where the explanatory variables capture the net effect of in-group altruism and between group antagonism and $E(\dots)$ is the expected payoff of alternative racial strategies.

We estimate the following reduced form racial identity equation⁵.

$$\Pr(Y = y_{ist}) = \Lambda(\beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Age}_i + \beta_2 \text{Gender}_i + \beta_3 \text{Completed Years of Education}_i + \sum_{p=1}^8 \text{ArrivalPeriod}_p \gamma_p + \sum_k \text{AncestralGroup}_k \phi_k + \sum_s \text{State}_s \theta_s + \delta \text{Anti-Muslim Hate Crimes-Percent}_{ist}) + u_{ist}$$

where $\Lambda(\dots)$ is a logit specification with self-identification options $j = \{\text{white (0)}, \text{non-white(1)}\}$ for individual i who resides in state s during period t ; “Ancestral-Group $_k$,” $k = \text{North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, West Asia, Central Asia, East Asia, and Europe}$, a vector of binary variables; “State $_s$,” $s = 1, \dots, S$ is a vector of binary variables to capture state fixed effects; “ArrivalPeriod $_p$,” $p = 1, \dots, 8$, a vector of binary variables to capture fixed effects of immigrant cohorts arriving in US; and, “Percent Hate Crimes Against Muslims $_{st}$ ” is the fraction of hate crimes directed against Muslims in state s during time t .

The arrival periods are Arrived pre-1965, Arrived 1965–1974, Arrived 1975–1981, Arrived 1982–1991, Arrived 1992–2001, Arrived 2002–2003, Arrived 2004–2007, and Arrived 2008–2012. The arrival periods are demarcated by business cycles or major institutional changes. Prior to the Immigration Reform Act of 1965 it was very difficult for persons living in African and Asian countries to legally immigrant to the US. Major recessions occurred during 1975–1975, 1981–1982, 1991–1992, 2001–2002, and the Great Recession that began during the third quarter of 2007. The recessions mark the beginning of a new business cycle. Recessions restructure occupations, industries, finances of governmental units, and public policies and, thus, the US demand for immigrants. Also, these were international recessions that differentially affected national economies and, hence, the supply of immigrants to the US. Immigrants living in the US for a longer period of time have a greater ability to acculturate than more recent immigrants; some immigrants from earlier cohorts who failed to acculturate will have left the US.

Our identification strategy takes advantage of intertemporal and interstate variation in the extent of hate crimes against Muslims. Importantly, Gould and Klor (2013) find that hate crimes against Arab and Islamic Americans after 9/11 are an “exogenous surge in anti-Muslim sentiment, with variation across states that can be exploited to

examine whether the backlash affected the assimilation rate of local Muslim immigrants (page 20).”

Pre- and post-9/11 changes in the composition of ancestral origin groups are a potential source of endogeneity bias. Our identification strategy accounts for “compositional changes” by examining multiple sub-groups. Americans of Arab and Islamic descent are extremely diverse in terms of racial self-identification. As such, changes in the fraction of Arab and Islamic Americans self-identifying as white or non-white might occur because of changes in the representation of ancestral groups with persons more or less likely to self-identify as white.

Respondents of North African ancestry include persons from Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and a residual category identified as North Africa. Respondents of West Asian ancestry include persons with origins in Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestinian Territories, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Yemen, and a residual category identified as the “Middle East.” Europe includes individuals with ancestral origins in Albania and Kosovo. The sub-Saharan sample includes Somalia, Sudan, Senegal, and Sierra Leone. Indonesia and Malaysia are the East Asian countries, while Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Uzbekistan are the Central Asian countries.

Additionally, we alter the ancestral composition of the sample. At the broadest level, the full sample includes all persons whose national origin is among the Pew Research Center’s (2011) list of countries with a majority Muslim population: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kosovo, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestinian Territories, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, Uzbekistan, and Yemen⁶.

Eliminating observations from ancestral groups that were not sampled before 9/11 limits composition bias. So, the “core sample” is limited to persons affiliated with ancestral groups with CPS representation before and after September 11, 2001. Prior to 2002, the March CPS data does not identify individuals with the following ancestral origins: Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Kosovo, Kuwait, Malaysia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somali, Sudan, Uzbekistan, and Yemen. Persons from these groups are included in the full sample but not the core sample.

Third, the DOJ special registration program focused on a set of ancestral groups that were to be the subject of special government surveillance and pressure (Cainkar 2002b). These groups would have reduced incentives to acculturate. The “DOJ sample” is a sub-sample of the core sample and is limited to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Syria⁷.

Finally, we also control for compositional bias by separately analyzing native-born and immigrant sub-groups. Regardless of ancestral heritage, native-born persons should be more acculturated than immigrants.

The parameter of interest is δ , which yields the causal effect of a change in the nation’s racial environment on the extent of acculturation of Arab and Islamic Americans. The fraction of persons selecting a white racial identity is our measure of acculturation, while anti-Muslim hate crimes as a percentage of all hate crimes captures changes in the nation’s racial environment.

4. Data and descriptive statistics

The hate crimes data are an extract from the DOJ Uniform Crime Reporting Program's master files. The data cover all US hate crime reports for 1994–2011. Hate crime data are separated into pre- and post-9/11 periods. For each state and each period, "Anti-Muslim Hate Crimes - Percent" includes all the period's single-bias anti-Muslim hate crimes divided by the period's total hate crimes. For 2001, the hate crime rate is calculated through September 11; hate crimes for the remainder of 2001 are calculated with 2002. The correction for 2001 and 2002 allows us to match the post-9/11 hate crimes data and the post-9/11 racial identity selection. For each state, intertemporal variation in "Anti-Muslim Hate Crimes - Percent" captures pre- and post-9/11 changes in the nation's racial environment. For each period, interstate variation in "Anti-Muslim Hate Crimes - Percent" captures state specific variations in the racial environment.

Hate crime data are merged with data from the 1994 – 2012 Current Population Survey (CPS) Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC), otherwise known as the March supplement. The CPS is a monthly survey of about 60,000 households (or 110,000 persons) conducted by the Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics and is the primary source for labor force statistics in the US. It is a probability sample designed to be representative of the civilian non-institutional population of the US. The CPS sample is redesigned, and a new sample is selected after the decennial census.

The March CPS provides a large annual sample size, information on ancestry, and multiple years of observation prior to September 11, 2001. Starting in 1994 the CPS continuously includes information on the respondent's nativity and the nativity of the respondent's parents. These variables identify native-born persons and 1st and 2nd generation immigrants from predominately Muslim countries, our sample of Arab and Islamic Americans. CPS data permit only partial identification of 3rd or higher generation Arab and Islamic Americans. Zogby (2001) notes that 10% of Arab Americans are 3rd or 4th generation Americans, but 90% are 1st or 2nd generation immigrants. The data do not permit identification of persons who speak Arabic, or who live in an environment where Arabic is spoken, or the religious affiliation of individuals.

By comparison, the US Census provides a large number of observations but is available only at 10 year intervals. Moreover, the 2010 Census includes only information from the short-form and hence no information on ancestry. Previously, the 2000 Census provided information from both the short and long forms. The long form Census data are the source of the American Community Survey (ACS). Although there have been changes since implementation, the ACS has been an annual survey since 2000. It provides a large number of observations, though only one year of data prior to the Al Qaeda attacks of September 11, 2001.

Beginning in January 1996, budget cuts lead to a reduction in the CPS sample size, from 56,000+ households to 50,000. But, starting in July 2001 the CPS increased its monthly sample size from 50,000+ households to 60,000+ households. These changes had virtually no effect on the characteristics of respondents in the sample or the overall composition of the sample. The 1996 changes reduced the total number of observations for small demographic groups, such as Arab and Islamic Americans, while the 2001 changes increased the total number of observations of small demographic groups. By combining multiple years of observations prior to September 11, 2001 with multiple

years of observations after this timeperiod, we get large numbers of observations of Arab and Islamic Americans both before and after the Al Qaeda attacks.

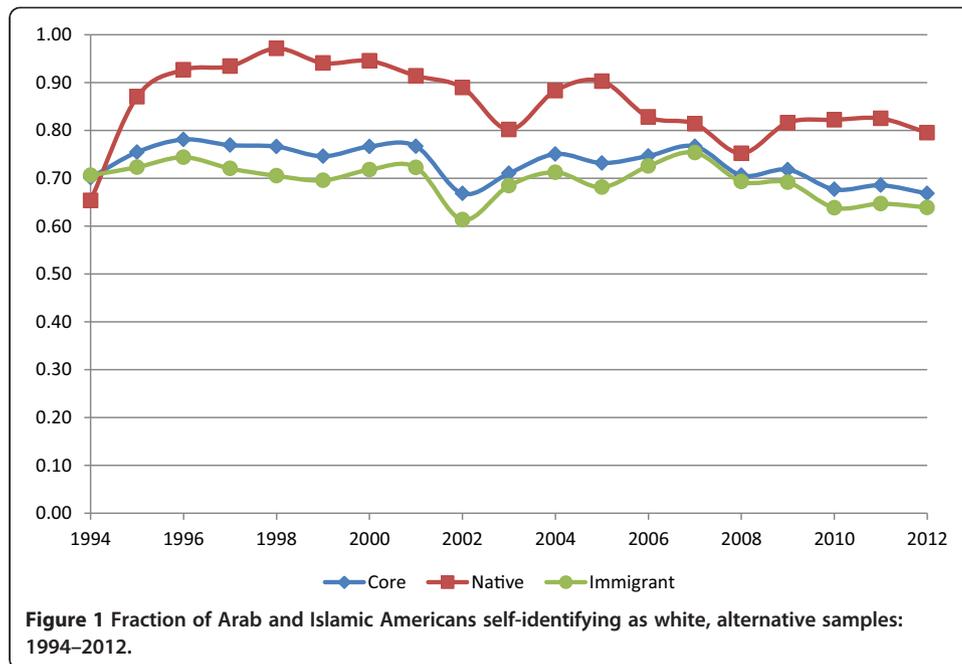
Descriptive statistics are provided in Table 3. Notably, 76% of the sample self-identified as white during 1994–2001 and 68% self-identified as white during 2002–2012; overall, non-white representation increased from 1/4 to 1/3. Specifically, the percent self-identifying as black and other-race rose from 2% to 7% and from 22% to 25%, respectively. For the pre-9/11 and post-9/11 periods the percentage of all hate crimes that are directed against Muslim Americans increased by an order of five, from 0.52% to 2.53%. About one in five Arab and Islamic Americans are native-born, 68% are immigrants arriving before or during 2001, and 11% are immigrants arriving after 2001.

Figure 1 presents the fraction of individuals self-identifying as white by alternative samples for 1994–2012. There is a strong decrease in the fraction of persons self-identifying as white between March 2001 and March 2002. For the Core sample, the fraction self-identifying as white declined from 77% to 67%. There was some recovery in the fraction of Arab and Islamic Americans self-identifying as white in the years immediately after 2002; nevertheless, by 2008 a permanently lower level of white identity had set in for most groups. Figure 1 also shows that 1994 and 1995 are outliers for native-born Arab and Islamic Americans⁸. Native Arab and Islamic Americans are considerably

Table 3 Descriptive Statistics before and after 9/11

	1994-2001	2002-2012
N	4,136	13,087
Europe	0.0000	0.0230
North Africa	0.1328	0.1217
Sub-Sahara	0.0000	0.0519
West Asia	0.6676	0.5342
Arab West Asia	0.3293	0.2776
Central Asia	0.1996	0.2242
East Asia	0.0000	0.0450
Completed Years of Education	13.51	13.51
Age	39.93	41.05
Male	0.5628	0.5319
Native-born	0.2155	0.2104
White	0.7631	0.6757
Black	0.0168	0.0715
Other-race	0.2200	0.2528
Percentage Anti-Muslim Hate Crimes	0.0052	0.0253
Year of Arrival Pre-1965	0.0493	0.0284
Year of Arrival 1965-1974	0.0898	0.0503
Year of Arrival 1975-1981	0.1888	0.0930
Year of Arrival 1982-1991	0.2626	0.1867
Year of Arrival 1992-2001	0.1940	0.2682
Year of Arrival 2002-2003	0.0000	0.0440
Year of Arrival 2004-2007	0.0000	0.0767
Year of Arrival 2008-2012	0.0000	0.0424

Except Completed Years of Education and North Africa, all intertemporal differences are statistically significant at 1%. North Africa difference is statistically significant at 5 percent. Descriptive statistics are weighted averages.



more likely than immigrant and younger Arab and Islamic Americans to self-identify as white. Interestingly, for native Arab and Islamic Americans the post-9/11 racial environment appears to have deepened a pre-existing trend to reduce self-identification as white. Regardless of sample composition and ancestral origin, racial self-identification is subject to considerable variation between and among Arab and Islamic American ancestral groups.

Among Central Asians white identification declined from 26% to 13% between 2001 and 2002. For North Africans, the decrease was from 90% to 82%. West Asians are a strong majority of the data for all years. This group has a 24 percentage point increase in white self-identification between 1994 and 1996. This is a pure composition effect. For 1994 West Asia includes 125 observations and all are for Iran. West Asia includes 292 observations in 1995, but Iranians are 41% of those observations. From 1996 onward, Iranians are less than 1/3 of the West Asian sample. Accordingly, nearly all of our analysis concentrates on observations from 1996 onward.

5. Results

Using the full, core, and DOJ samples, alternative logistic regressions of the racial identity equation are presented in Table 4. All individuals are 15–64 years of age and we use observations for 1996–2012. The results are robust across samples: the odds of selecting a non-white racial identity, that is, self-identifying as either other-race or black, decrease with education and age, increase by 14–21% for males, increase considerably for more recent immigrants, and increase for persons of North African, sub-Saharan, East Asian, and Central Asian ancestral origin relative to West Asians. However, the odds that Arab and Islamic Americans of European origin will select a non-white racial identity decline by 87% relative to West Asians.

A one percentage point increase in hate crimes yields a 9% increase in the relative odds that Arab and Islamic Americans will select a non-white racial identity. The

Table 4 Results about non-white racial identity

	Full			Core			DOJ		
	Odds	s.e.	p-value	Odds	s.e.	p-value	Odds	s.e.	p-value
Age	0.9838	0.0022	0.00	0.9871	0.0024	0.00	0.9904	0.0026	0.00
Male	1.1437	0.0558	0.01	1.1567	0.0614	0.01	1.2056	0.0692	0.00
Years of Education	0.9707	0.0074	0.00	0.9743	0.0081	0.00	0.9883	0.0091	0.20
Arrived pre-1965	1.4209	0.3425	0.15	1.1189	0.2783	0.65	1.4868	0.3992	0.14
Arrived 1965-1974	1.6787	0.2439	0.00	1.2378	0.1928	0.17	1.2253	0.2074	0.23
Arrived 1975-1981	3.2840	0.3443	0.00	2.4128	0.2697	0.00	2.1884	0.2660	0.00
Arrived 1982-1991	3.0731	0.2628	0.00	2.2666	0.2092	0.00	2.1555	0.2153	0.00
Arrived 1992-2001	4.0637	0.3139	0.00	2.9202	0.2449	0.00	2.8611	0.2639	0.00
Arrived 2002-2003	4.0817	0.5558	0.00	2.9522	0.4546	0.00	2.2671	0.3961	0.00
Arrived 2004-2007	5.4360	0.6086	0.00	3.7727	0.4865	0.00	4.0329	0.5611	0.00
Arrived 2008-2012	5.1654	0.7393	0.00	3.7182	0.5859	0.00	4.0901	0.6737	0.00
State Fixed Effects	yes			yes			yes		
Europe	0.1329	0.0558	0.00						
North Africa	1.8923	0.1382	0.00	2.0642	0.1530	0.00	1.2095	0.1073	0.03
Central Asia	34.90	2.1257	0.00	40.31	2.5573	0.00	36.30	2.4231	0.00
East Asia	53.80	6.8682	0.00						
Sub-Sahara	32.61	3.8402	0.00						
Anti-Muslim Hate Crimes	1.0914	0.0252	0.00	1.0889	0.0257	0.00	1.0895	0.0283	0.00
Constant	0.0638	0.0088	0.00	0.0628	0.0093	0.00	0.0482	0.0078	0.00
N	15,512			13,489			11,773		
Chi-Square	8,673			6,962			6,569		
p-Value	0.0000			0.0000			0.0000		
Pseudo R2	0.4296			0.4140			0.4357		
Log likelihood	-5,758			-4,926			-4,253		

Individuals 15–64 years of age, for years 1996–2012.

stability of this coefficient across all three samples suggests that although individuals represented by the DOJ sample were subjected to greater governmental legal activity than other Arab and Islamic Americans, the post-9/11 national environment reduced incentives to acculturate for all Arab and Islamic Americans.

Unobserved “culture effects” represent a potential endogeneity problem. If unobserved cultural effects favoring non-white identity increased after 9/11 then racial identity selection might have changed in response to these unobserved cultural factors rather than a change in the racial environment. If so, our statistical correlation between racial identity selection and anti-Muslim hate crimes contains some degree of spurious correlation.

We check for unobserved cultural bias by restricting our sample to elderly persons, that is, persons age 65 and above. Compared to otherwise identical school-age and working-age persons, elderly persons have a stronger cultural attachment to Arab identity and Islamic religion than their younger counter-parts (Elver 2012). Elderly Arab and Islamic Americans are subjected to the same or higher unobserved cultural influences as younger Arab and Islamic Americans, but elderly persons have much less incentive to change their racial identity selection, to change their behaviors and actions, or to move to another location in response to exogenous changes in the racial environment. Moreover, native-born elderly Arab and Islamic Americans are more invested in the

dominant racial identity (white) than either younger or immigrant elderly Arab and Islamic Americans.

Restricting our sample to individuals at least 65 years of age, the logistic odds ratio for anti-Muslim hate crimes is 0.32 with a standard error of 0.30 (p -value = 0.28) for native-born elderly Arab and Islamic Americans⁹. Moreover, the p -value = 0.53 for the χ^2 statistic of the log-likelihood goodness-of-fit test. Similarly, the logistic odds ratio for anti-Muslim hate crimes is 0.10 with a standard error of 1.28 (p -value = 0.20) for immigrant elderly Arab and Islamic Americans. Hence, in our logistic regression evaluation, for both native-born and immigrant elderly Arab and Islamic Americans, the odds ratio for anti-Muslim hate crimes has the incorrect value (less than 1) and is statistically insignificant. These results are inconsistent with the presence of unobserved cultural effects creating endogeneity bias.

As an additional check for the presence of endogeneity bias resulting from unobserved culture, we use a non-parametric difference-in-difference estimator to derive point estimates for the effect on the change in the post-9/11 national environment on racial self-identification of Arab and Islamic Americans. All Arab and Islamic Americans received the same treatment associated with the Al Qaeda attacks of 9/11, but the treatment is likely to be much less effective for the elderly than for working-age and school-age persons. Hence, we treat elderly Arab and Islamic Americans as the control group.

Restricting our analysis to native-born persons at least 65 years of age and the core sample for 1996–2001, all individuals self-identify as white ($n = 187$). But, for 2002–2012, 0.0223 self-identify as non-white (s.e. = 0.1479, $n = 314$). For the same group of immigrant Arab and Islamic Americans, 0.1154 self-identify as non-white (s.e. = 0.3202, $n = 234$) pre-9/11 and 0.2027 self-identify as non-white (s.e. = 0.4022, $n = 893$) post-9/11. Hence, among native-born elderly Arab and Islamic Americans the post-9/11 increase in non-white racial identity = 0.0223 (t -stat. = 2.67) and among immigrant Arab and Islamic Americans the post-9/11 increase in non-white identity = 0.0873 (t -stat. = 3.51).

Restricting our analysis to native-born working-age and school-age persons, that is, persons 15–64 years of age, and the core sample for 1996–2001, 0.0762 of native-born Arab and Islamic Americans self-identify as white (s.e. = 0.2657, $n = 616$). Post-9/11 non-white self-identification is 0.2096 (s.e. = 0.4071, $n = 2238$). For the same group of immigrant Arab and Islamic Americans, 0.2848 self-identify as white (s.e. = 0.4514, $n = 2500$) pre-9/11 and 0.3698 self-identify as non-white (s.e. = 0.4828, $n = 8294$) post-9/11. Hence, among native-born working-age and school-age Arab and Islamic Americans the post-9/11 increase in non-white racial identity = 0.1333 (t -stat. = 9.7), and among immigrant Arab and Islamic Americans the post-9/11 increase in non-white identity = 0.0850 (t -stat. = 8.12).

The point estimates of the difference-in-difference effects for native-born and immigrant Arab and Islamic Americans are 0.1110 (t -stat. = 6.90) and -0.0023 (t -stat. = 0.09), respectively. Hence, the non-parametric difference-in-difference estimator also suggests a statistically significant increase in post-9/11 non-white racial identification among native-born Arab and Islamic Americans caused by differences in the US racial environment.

Our core statistical argument is that negative changes in the nation's racial environment after the Al Qaeda attacks of September 11, 2001 discouraged Arab and Islamic Americans from acculturating into dominant racial identity norms. The extent of

acculturation is measured by the fraction of persons selecting a white racial identity. Changes in the nation's racial environment are captured by anti-Muslim hate crimes, which spiked to historical levels after 9/11 and did not return to their pre-2001 levels. The statistically significant relationship between racial identity selection and hate crimes reported in Table 4 controls for composition changes and culture effects, which are potential sources of endogeneity bias that might confound our ability to establish a casual relationship between racial identity selection and hate crimes.

"Immigration bias" is another potential endogeneity problem. Immigration bias is selection bias arising from changes in the potential racial identity of immigrants arriving after 9/11. Specifically, the nation's post-9/11 racial environment may not have caused changes in racial identity selection of Arab and Islamic Americans; rather, it may have caused changes in the type of immigrants coming to America – within ancestral groups, encouraging relatively more immigrants who are likely to select a non-white racial identity. Or, post-9/11 changes in the countries of origin – related to or unrelated to the Al Qaeda attacks on the US – may have changed the type of immigrants arriving in the US. If immigration bias is a source of spurious correlation, then we should observe no hate crimes effect for native-born persons.

Table 5 presents selected odds ratios when the data are separated for native-born persons and immigrants and separate logistic regressions are estimated for the full, core, and DOJ samples. Figure 1 shows that immigrants are more likely to self-identify as non-white than native-born persons. The statistical results in Table 5 show that changes in acculturation for native-born persons are more sensitive to changes in the post-9/11 racial environment. In particular, a one percentage point increase in anti-Muslim hate crimes will increase the odds of non-white identity selection by 25–28% for native-born persons, but 6–7% for immigrants. These results are inconsistent with immigration bias as a source of an endogeneity problem.

As an additional check for immigration bias, we estimate logistic and multi-nomial logit versions of the racial identity equation with a restricted sample of immigrants. Specifically, we use the core sample of immigrants but exclude the elderly and immigrants arriving on or after 2002. Observations are for 1996–2012. If post-9/11 selective immigration is a source of endogeneity bias, we should not observe a hate crimes effect with this restricted sample of immigrants.

For the logit specification, the odds ratio associated with anti-Islamic hate crimes is 1.0244, suggesting that among immigrants arriving before 9/11 there is a 2.4 percent increase in the odds of self-identifying as non-white during the post-9/11 period¹⁰. But, this coefficient is not significant (p-value = 0.30). The multi-nomial logit equation provides nuance. Considering anti-Muslim hate crimes, the relative risk ratio for self-identifying as other-race rather than white is 0.9642, suggesting that immigrants arriving before 9/11 are less likely to self-identify as other-race during the post-9/11 period. But, this coefficient is not significant (p-value = 0.16). The relative risk ratio for self-identifying as black rather than white is 1.3030, suggesting that immigrants arriving before 9/11 are 30% more likely to self-identify as black during the post-9/11 period. This coefficient is significant (p-value = 0.0000). Collectively considered, the magnitude and direction of the differential effects in Table 5 plus our additional results when post-9/11 immigrants are excluded from the immigration sample suggest that immigration bias is not a cause of spurious correlation between racial self-identity and hate crimes.

Table 5 Non-white racial identity selection among Arab and Islamic Americans, by nativity, selected coefficients, logistic regression

Native-born	Full			Core			DOJ		
	Coef.	s.e.	Odds	Coef.	s.e.	Odds	Coef.	s.e.	Odds
Age	-0.052	0.007	0.949	-0.045	0.008	0.956	-0.043	0.009	0.958
Male	0.087	0.119	1.091	0.021	0.132	1.021	0.012	0.145	1.012
Completed Years of Education	0.041	0.023	1.042	0.037	0.026	1.038	0.045	0.028	1.046
muslim_percentage_prepost	0.232	0.070	1.261	0.250	0.071	1.284	0.224	0.078	1.251
N	3,104			2,706			2,257		
Chi-Square	1,137			988			930		
p-Value	0.000			0.000			0.000		
Pseudo R2	0.363			0.377			0.405		
Log likelihood	-996			-817			-683		
Immigrant	Full			Core			DOJ		
	Coef.	s.e.	Odds	Coef.	s.e.	Odds	Coef.	s.e.	Odds
Age	-0.010	0.003	0.990	-0.010	0.003	0.990	-0.007	0.003	0.993
Male	0.162	0.055	1.176	0.173	0.059	1.188	0.220	0.064	1.246
Completed Years of Education	-0.033	0.008	0.967	-0.033	0.009	0.968	-0.019	0.010	0.981
Muslim Hate Crimes - Percent	0.059	0.025	1.061	0.063	0.026	1.065	0.070	0.028	1.072
N	12,337			10,670			9,422		
Chi-Square	7,331			5,746			5,446		
p-Value	0.000			0.000			0.000		
Pseudo R2	0.443			0.416			0.437		
Log likelihood	-4,617			-4,040			-3,505		

Individuals 15 – 64 years of age, for years 1996 – 2012. Complete regression also has state fixed effects, ancestral origin controls, year of arrival fixed effects in addition to variables in the table.

However, differences in the racial identity equation for native-born and immigrant Arab and Islamic Americans are revealed in Table 5. For example, gender effects are greater among immigrants. Relative to females, the odds of a male selecting a non-white identity increases by 18% (full and core samples) – 25% (DOJ sample). Gender is insignificant for native-born persons. Notably, also, highly educated native-born Arab and Islamic Americans are more likely to select a non-white identity. Sometimes this coefficient has large standard errors. Among immigrants, the odds of selecting a non-white identity decline with completed years of education.

Selective relative risk ratios (RRR) from multinomial logit specifications of the racial identity equation are presented in Table 6. The upper panel use all observations for the full, core, and the DOJ samples. The middle and lower panel use only native-born and immigrant observations, respectively, to estimate each of the equations. For all equations, selecting white is the base outcome with relative risks ratios presented for selecting other-race or selecting black.

The relative risk of Arab and Islamic Americans selecting other-race declines with age. Among native-born persons and immigrants, a one year increase in age will reduce the relative risk ratio by 1% and 6%, respectively. The relative risk of selecting black also declines with age, but the effect is small (less than 0.50%) and statistically insignificant in each of the DOJ equations, that is, the equations with the ancestral groups subjected to the most intense governmental actions.

Table 6 Relative risk ratios of Arab and Islamic American racial identity selection, by nativity, selected coefficients

Other race	Full sample			Core			DOJ		
	Coef.	s.e.	RRR	Coef.	s.e.	RRR	Coef.	s.e.	RRR
Age	-0.017	0.003	0.983	-0.015	0.003	0.985	-0.012	0.003	0.988
Male	0.164	0.055	1.178	0.165	0.060	1.180	0.192	0.063	1.211
Completed Years of Education	0.003	0.009	1.003	0.003	0.010	1.003	0.011	0.010	1.011
Muslim Hate Crimes - Percent	0.035	0.026	1.035	0.031	0.027	1.031	0.035	0.029	1.035
Black									
Age	-0.012	0.004	0.988	-0.009	0.004	0.991	-0.002	0.005	0.998
Male	0.069	0.088	1.071	0.076	0.098	1.079	0.174	0.114	1.191
Completed Years of Education	-0.093	0.012	0.911	-0.092	0.014	0.912	-0.091	0.016	0.913
muslim_percentage_prepost	0.299	0.054	1.348	0.302	0.055	1.353	0.341	0.068	1.407
All N	15,512			13,489			11,773		
Chi-Square	12,692			8,641			7,748		
p-Value	0.000			0.000			0.000		
Pseudo R2	0.489			0.433			0.442		
Log likelihood	-6,642			-5,664			-4,884		
Other race	Coef.	s.e.	RRR	Coef.	s.e.	RRR	Coef.	s.e.	RRR
Age	-0.071	0.010	0.932	-0.064	0.011	0.938	-0.062	0.012	0.940
Male	-0.015	0.143	0.986	-0.051	0.156	0.950	-0.084	0.168	0.920
Completed Years of Education	0.096	0.028	1.101	0.082	0.030	1.086	0.092	0.032	1.097
Muslim Hate Crimes - Percent	0.143	0.081	1.154	0.156	0.082	1.169	0.121	0.089	1.129
Black									
Age	-0.025	0.010	0.975	-0.012	0.012	0.988	-0.005	0.014	0.995
Male	0.196	0.205	1.216	0.128	0.235	1.136	0.223	0.274	1.250
Completed Years of Education	-0.033	0.042	0.967	-0.063	0.046	0.939	-0.074	0.051	0.928
Muslim Hate Crimes - Percent	0.516	0.180	1.676	0.544	0.185	1.723	0.606	0.241	1.832
Native-born N	3,175			2,819			2,351		
Chi-Square	1,607			1,308			1,208		
p-Value	0.000			0.000			0.000		
Pseudo R2	0.424			0.419			0.446		
Log likelihood	-1,094			-908			-749		
Other race	Full	s.e.	RRR	Core	s.e.	RRR	DOJ	s.e.	RRR
Age	-0.011	0.003	0.989	-0.011	0.003	0.990	-0.008	0.003	0.992
Male	0.202	0.061	1.224	0.197	0.066	1.218	0.231	0.069	1.259
Completed Years of Education	-0.005	0.010	0.995	-0.003	0.010	0.997	0.004	0.011	1.004
Muslim Hate Crimes - Percent	0.011	0.028	1.011	0.013	0.029	1.013	0.024	0.031	1.024
Black									
Age	-0.008	0.004	0.992	-0.010	0.005	0.991	-0.003	0.006	0.997
Male	0.048	0.100	1.049	0.087	0.110	1.091	0.176	0.127	1.192
Completed Years of Education	-0.095	0.014	0.909	-0.098	0.015	0.907	-0.097	0.018	0.907
Muslim Hate Crimes - Percent	0.267	0.058	1.306	0.268	0.059	1.307	0.310	0.072	1.363
Immigrant N	12,337			10,670			9,422		
Chi-Square	10,975			7,212			6,417		
p-Value	0.000			0.000			0.000		
Pseudo R2	0.505			0.437			0.442		
Log likelihood	-5,370			-4,651			-4,051		

Individuals 15–64 years of age, for years 1996–2012. Complete regression also has state fixed effects, ancestral origin controls, year of arrival fixed effects in addition to variables in the table.

Completed years of education has a negative effect on the relative risk of selecting a black racial identity relative to selecting white, though the effect is insignificant for native-born Arab and Islamic Americans and about 9% for immigrants. The relative risk of selecting other-race is not significantly related to completed years of education for immigrants, but rises by 10% for a one year increase in completed years of education of native-born Arab and Islamic Americans.

The relative risk of selecting black are positive and large for both immigrant and native-born males, but the effects are not measured with precision. The relative risk of selecting other-race declines with native-born males, but this coefficient is also insignificant. The relative risk of male immigrants selecting other-race is 22%–26% higher relative to female Arab and Islamic immigrants.

A one percentage point increase in anti-Muslim hate crimes has a positive but small (1%–2%) and insignificant effect for immigrant Arab and Islamic Americans selecting other-race relative to selecting white. Among native-born persons, this coefficient suggests the relative risk ratio will increase by 13%–17%, though it has a large standard error in the DOJ equation. A one percentage point increase in hate crimes encourages a substantively large and statistically significant increase in the relative risk of Arab and Islamic Americans selecting a black identity. For immigrant and native-born Arab and Islamic Americans the relative risks of selecting a black identity increases by 31%–36% and by 68%–83%, respectively.

Finally, we test for “mobility bias” as a potential endogeneity problem. Specifically, did non-white Arab and Islamic Americans disproportionately relocate to high anti-Muslim hate crimes locations during the post-9/11 period? If so, the changes in Arab and Islamic racial identity selection may not have been caused by changes in the post-9/11 racial environment. The null hypothesis in this case is that controlling for relocation, anti-Muslim hate crimes are not significantly related to Arab and Islamic racial identity selection.

We test for mobility bias by identifying all persons who lived in a different region between adjacent years. The identifiable regions are New England, Middle Atlantic, East North Central, West North Central, South Atlantic, East South Central, West South Central, Mountain, Pacific, and persons who lived abroad during the previous year. Using the core sample for persons 15–64 years of age and for years 1996–2012, we exclude all persons who lived abroad or who lived in a different national region during the previous year for each year after March 2002. Both regional movements and the commission of hate crimes take time; hence, we keep in the sample both movers and stayers for March 2002. The point estimates and associated measures of statistical significance are identical to those presented for each of the logistic and multinomial regions of Tables 5 and 6, respectively¹¹. Accordingly, the data reject mobility bias as a potential endogeneity problem. This is consistent with Kaushal et al. (2007), who find that post-9/11 intrastate mobility of Arab and Islamic Americans declined by three percentage points (20%) and that there is no statistical evidence that post-9/11 stigmatization is associated with interstate migration to avoid discrimination.

6. Summary and discussion

This paper has investigated the following question. Did the public and private reaction to the Al Qaeda attacks of September 11, 2001, followed by the US invasion of Iraq

during March 19, 2003 – May 1, 2003 and the long war that followed and its discussion in the elections of 2004, as well as the racially charged US presidential election of 2008 and the election of 2010 stigmatize Arab ethnicity and Islamic religious affiliation? These racializing events correspond closely to an exogenous reduction in the public's willingness to accept Arab and Islamic acculturation into US society. This approach to empirically examining racial identity as a dependent variable bypasses endogeneity problems that have not been fully addressed in the previous literature. We used interstate changes in the percentage of hate crimes targeted at Muslims to identify exogenous changes in the post-9/11 racial environment.

This paper finds that these stigmatizing events altered the distribution of racial identities among Arab and Islamic Americans. A one percentage point increase in anti-Muslim hate crimes is associated with a 9% increase in the odds an Arab or Islamic American will self-identify as non-white, that is, either black or other-race. The point estimates for native-born persons and immigrants are 28% and 7%, respectively. The results are robust to multiple potential sources of endogeneity bias: composition effects, immigration bias, unobserved culture effects, and mobility bias.

The results are also qualified in some important ways. Namely, the sample analyzed in this paper included only Arab and Islamic Americans of with ancestral origins in predominately Muslim countries. Also, because the data do not permit complete identification of 3rd or higher generation Arab and Islamic Americans we are unable to determine if our results apply to the most socially integrated Arab and Islamic Americans. Knowing whether there has been a change in the racial self-identity of the most "Americanized" sub-groups would provide additional important information on the fluidity of racial identity.

Historically, Americans think of race in terms of a black-white binary classification, based on skin shade and hypo-descent. Persons of Asian descent do fit neatly into this limited classification scheme. Recent research on Arab and Islamic identification suggests that racial categorization may be substantially more complex than envisioned by policy-makers, academics, and the general public.

Finally, the empirical results uncovered in this study hold important implications for the theoretical analysis of racial identity research. Although skin tone is likely an important determinant of racial identity selection among Arab and Islamic Americans, it is of considerable consequence to note that the racializing events of 2002–2012 pushed individuals into racial minority status based on religion and linguistic ancestral origins – regardless of skin shade.

Endnotes

¹Unless otherwise stated, these events are extracted from Akram (2002).

²These are single-bias incidents, that is, if a hate crime is directed toward an African American Muslim, the FBI determines if the crime is directed against the individual because he is black, a Muslim, or both. There are extremely few multi-bias incidents.

³Kaushal et al. (2007) find no wage and employment effects for Arab and Muslim women.

⁴Additional measures of assimilation include fertility rates (higher for non-assimilated), labor force participation for women (lower among non-assimilated), and English fluency (lower among non-assimilated). Gould and Klor find that hate crimes are associated with

higher fertility rates among Arab and Islamic males and females; reduced female labor force participation; and, decreased the use of English at home as well as English proficiency.

⁵See Ajrouch and Jamal (2007) for a similar empirical specification.

⁶There were no CPS observations on individuals from following majority Muslim countries: Bahrain, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mayotte, Niger, Oman, Qatar, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, and Western Sahara.

⁷Several DOJ ancestral groups are excluded from our sample for alternative reasons. Eritrea and North Korea are not Arab or Islamic groups. Algeria, Indonesia, Kuwait, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen are not in the core sample. There were no observations from Bahrain, Qatar, Tunisia, and United Arab Emirates.

⁸For 1994 and 1995 there are 14 and 96 observations, respectively, for the native-born sample.

⁹In order to economize on tables, we do not present the results here. The results, however, are available upon request. The elderly logistic equation is slightly different from the others. The likelihood function does not converge if we use state fixed effect; hence, we substitute US national region fixed effects. The reported results use the core sample.

¹⁰Results are not presented here, but are available from the author upon request.

¹¹Results are available upon request.

Competing interests

The IZA Journal of Migration is committed to the IZA Guiding Principles of Research Integrity. The authors declare that they have observed these principles.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the responsible editor and anonymous referees for providing excellent editorial and substantive comments.

Responsible Editor: Amelie Constant

Received: 3 April 2014 Accepted: 8 September 2014

Published online: 23 October 2014

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doi:10.1186/s40176-014-0020-9

Cite this article as: Mason and Matella: Stigmatization and racial selection after September 11, 2001: self-identity among Arab and Islamic Americans. *IZA Journal of Migration* 2014 **3**:20.

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