

Patterns of Intermarriages and Cross-Generational In-marriages Among Post-1965 Native-Born Asian Americans

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1. Problems of Previous Studies

- included all native-born married Asian Americans;
- focused on native-born Asian groups' overall interethnic marriage rates without looking at interethnic linkages among particular Asian groups;
- did not pay attention to patterns of cross-generational in-marriages.

2. Main Objectives of This Article

- To show rates and patterns of contemporary native-born Asian Americans' intermarriages and in-marriages;
- To show three different types of cross-generation in-marriages;
- To show Asian-Asian interethnic marriage linkages.

3. Data Sources & Methods

- A Combined ACS Sample of 2001-2006 from IPUMS.
- Post-1965 Native-Born Married Single-Race Asian Americans 18 Years old and over.
- Cross-Tabulation Tables Showing Intermarriage and In-marriage Rates by Ethnic Group and Gender.
- A Figure Showing Multiple Pan-Asian Ethnic Boundaries.

4. Findings about Inter marriages

Table 1: Patterns of Inter marriages among Post-1965 Native-Born Asian Americans by Ethnic Group, 2001-2006

| | Race of Spouse among the Inter married | | | |
|-------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Exogamy | Asian Interethnic | White Interracial | Other Interracial ^{b)} |
| Total Asian | 55.1 | 9.2 | 35.0 | 10.9 |
| Chinese | 56.4 | 16.0 | 34.9 | 5.5 |
| Filipino | 62.5 | 5.6 | 39.1 | 17.8 |
| Indian | 32.1 | 2.2 | 24.0 | 5.9 |
| Japanese | 69.3 | 15.0 | 40.8 | 13.4 |
| Korean | 54.0 | 8.2 | 39.8 | 5.9 |
| Vietnamese | 39.6 | 5.7 | 22.5 | 11.5 |

- The Total Asian Americans' **intermarriage** rate is very high with 55%.
- The **Asian-Asian interethnic marriage** rate is very low with only 9%.
- The **Asian-White intermarriage** rate is high with 35%.
 - suggesting that the Asian-White racial boundary has been greatly reduced.

- As expected, native-born **Japanese** Americans' intermarriage rate is exceptionally high with 69%, much higher than previous studies showed (about 40%).
- **Filipinos** show the second highest intermarriage rate with 63%.

- **Indians** show the lowest intermarriage rate with 32%, a much lower rate than previous studies indicated.
- As expected, **Koreans** show a much lower intermarriage rate with 54% than previous studies indicated.

5. Finding about In-Marriages

Table 2: Patterns of In-marriages among Post-1965 Native-Born Asian Americans by Ethnic Group, 2001-2006

| | Generation of Spouse among the In-married | | | |
|-------------|---|-------------|----------------|------------------|
| | Total Endogamy | Native-Born | 1.5 Generation | First Generation |
| Total Asian | 44.9 | 22.2 | 9.8 | 12.9 |
| Chinese | 43.6 | 23.3 | 11.2 | 9.1 |
| Filipino | 37.5 | 17.0 | 9.2 | 11.3 |
| Indian | 67.9 | 24.8 | 13.1 | 30.0 |
| Japanese | 30.7 | 24.6 | 1.8 | 4.3 |
| Korean | 46.0 | 22.4 | 11.4 | 12.3 |
| Vietnamese | 60.4 | 35.4 | 11.2 | 13.8 |

- Slightly more than 50% of **in-married** Asian Americans are married to 1.5- or 1st generation spouses.
- Since some of native-native in-marriages involve **cross-generational marriages**, the majority of native-born Asian Americans engage in cross-generational in-marriages.

- What factors have contributed to a high **cross-generational marriage**?
 - transnational ties;
 - cultural similarities between native- and foreign-born Asians among youth;
 - immigrant parents' preference for immigrant in-laws (arranged marriages);
 - immigrant partners' choice of native-born partners for practical purposes.

- Naturally, Asian groups with very **high intermarriage** rates have **lower cross-generational marriage** rates (Japanese and Filipino).

- **Indians** with the lowest intermarriage rate have the highest cross-generational marriage rate with 43%, with 30% to first generation immigrants.
- For **Filipinos** and **Koreans**, women show much higher rates of cross-generational marriage to immigrants (18% to 7% for Koreans, 15% to 8% for Filipinos).

6. Concluding Remarks

- The **high intermarriage** rate of Post-1965 native-born Asian Americans, despite the radical increase in Asian populations, indicates:
 - their high acculturation;
 - their high structural assimilation;
 - the reduction of the Asian-White racial boundary.

- But some Asian groups like **Indians** and **Vietnamese** have much lower intermarriage rates than the national average mainly because of:
 - their non-Christian traditional religious background;
 - having more recent immigrants.

- Scholars of immigrant tend to use **generation as a homogeneous group** according to which in-married second-generation Asian Americans usually marry other second-generation **co-ethnic partners**.
- But our data show that the majority of in-married Asian Americans are married to **1.5- or immigrant generation partners**.

- **Consequences** of cross-generational in-marriages are more important than their causes.
 - more likely to maintain stronger **transnational ties**;
 - more likely to preserve stronger **ethnic cultural traditions** than those married to native-born partners.