



A New Paradigm of Discrimination and Measures of Latino Linked Fate

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Abstract

Linked fate has long been used as a measure of group consciousness and is an important component of group political behavior. Though applying linked fate to Latinos can be complicated because of a widely diverse set of nationalities and historical contexts, Latinos have shown signs of group cohesion under certain circumstances. Despite this, there is still a sizable gap exploring the theory of linked fate as it pertains to Latinos. Furthermore, there is a near-absence of literature that critically dissects the roles of different kinds of discrimination as they pertain to perceptions of linked fate amongst Latinos. There are distinct kinds of discrimination that have varying effects on people's psyches and are thus likely to have different effects on perceptions of linked fate. Using data from the 2006 Latino National Survey, this poster groups experiences of discrimination into two categories: political and social, and examines their varying effects on perceptions of linked fate for Latinos in the United States. Results reveal that social discrimination has a considerably stronger positive relationship with linked fate than political discrimination. Results also show that social discrimination has a significant relationship with linked fate, while political discrimination does not.

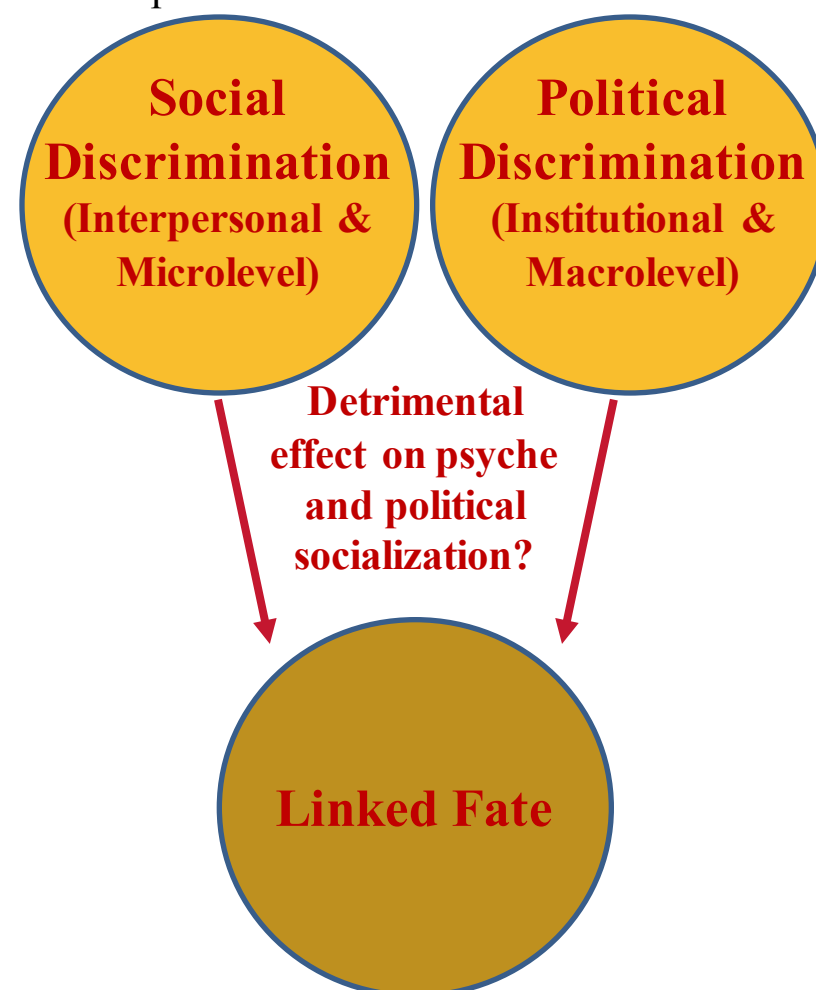
Background, Objectives, and Hypothesis

Background: The literature on Latino linked fate either groups all kinds of discrimination as one type of phenomena (Sanchez 2006, Golash-Boza and Darity Jr. 2008), OR, miscategorizes discrimination as "perceived or experienced" (Sanchez and Masuoka 2010).

Kassra Oskooii explains that categorizing discrimination as either "perceived or experienced" causes confusion for survey respondents and that the most appropriate way to categorize different kinds of discrimination is **social** or **political** discrimination (Oskooii 2015). Furthermore, Oskooii lays out that different kinds of discrimination have varying effects on the psyche, and thus ought to be parsed out when being used as independent variables to measure linked fate.

Objectives: The purpose of this research is to use Oskooii's paradigm of discrimination to determine if the different kinds of discrimination have different effects on feelings of linked fate amongst Latinos. If differences are found, to what degree and why?

Hypothesis: In the context of Latinos, political discrimination will have a significant and positive effect on perceptions of linked fate while social discrimination will have a positive, but not significant effect.



Methods

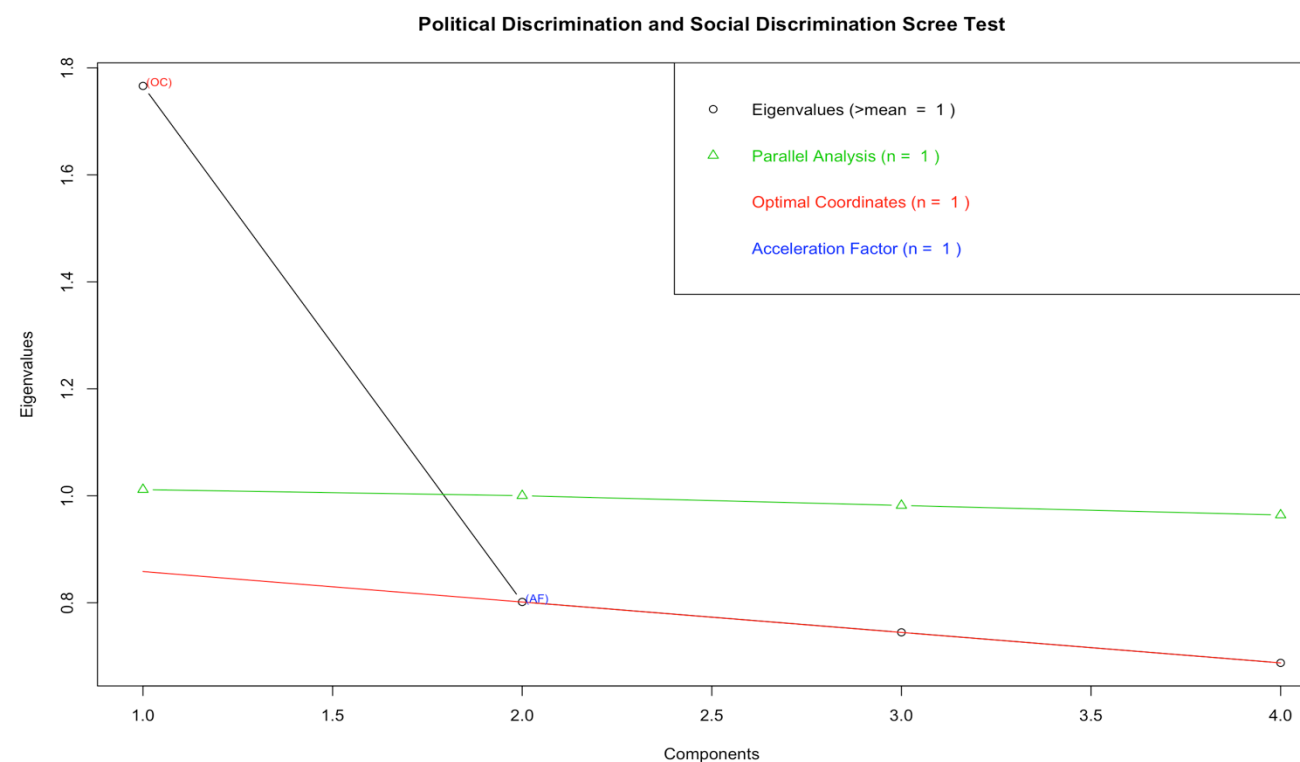
Data and Independent Variable: To test my hypothesis I am using survey data from the 2006 Latino National Survey. Linked fate is my independent variable and is measured with the survey question: *How much does your doing well depend on other Hispanics/Latinos doing well?* Responses are on a 1-4 scale.

Dependent Variable: My dependent variables are social and political discrimination. For social discrimination, I use survey questions asking if the respondent has ever been discriminated against at a **restaurant** or at the **workplace** (each yes or no questions) and make a 0-2 index aggregating responses. Similarly, for political discrimination, I use survey questions asking if the respondent has ever been discriminated against by **police** or by **housing** and make another 0-2 index.

Controls: It should be noted that my discrimination variables are controlled so that only respondents who feel that they were discriminated on the basis of race/ethnicity are included in the model. Controlling for this helps make sure that linked fate on the basis of *Latino panethnicity* is being measured. I also include a number of standard controls in the model such as household income. (See handout).

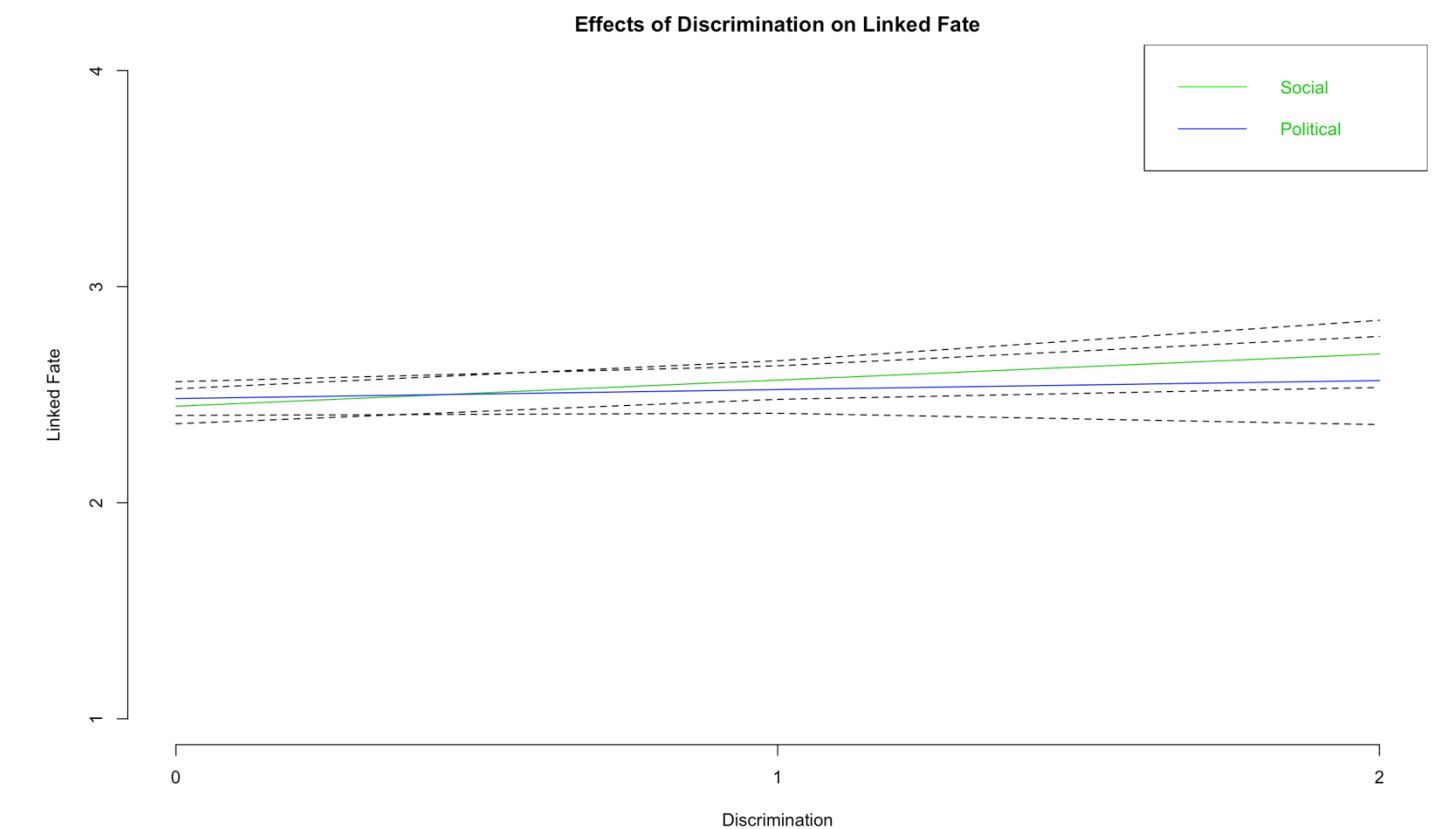
Cronbach's Alpha Test: To test the internal validity of my indices (making sure that the questions in each index are measuring the same concept), I conduct a Cronbach's Alpha Test. Results can range from a 0-1 scale with 1 being the highest internal consistency. My political discrimination index yielded a score of .38 and my social discrimination index yielded a score of .40. These scores are not ideal, but there are also only 2 items in each of the indices which is far from ideal.

Scree Plot: To test that my two indices are in fact measuring two distinct ideas, an explanatory factor test would be ideal, but I don't have enough items in my indices. Instead, I create a scree plot, which is more of a *suggestion* of how many variables to include in a model. The "elbow" of the plot suggests that there are two main variables at play which is consistent with our hypothesis.



Findings and Discussion

Below is the multivariable regression with all variables and controls. Social discrimination has a positive and significant relationship with linked fate at $p < .005$. Political discrimination has a positive, but not significant relationship with linked fate.



Discussion: These findings are important for two main reasons. First, finding that discrimination has a significant relationship with Latino linked fate is new. Second, finding that there is a key distinction between social and political discrimination for Latino linked fate further underline's Oskooii's point in that research concerning discrimination ought to separate discrimination into political discrimination and social discrimination.

Oskooii's original research was on Muslim-Americans and had opposite findings. In his research, political discrimination had a significant and stronger relationship with linked fate and not social discrimination. This research reinforces the notion that concepts like linked fate do not always operate the same way across racial lines due the unique histories that every group has.

Future Research: A good start for future research exploring this topic is to include more items in each of the discrimination indices. Having broader indices would provide more internal validity and also allow for an explanatory factor analysis that would then allow us to test each index to make sure they are measuring distinct concepts.

References

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Sanchez, G. R., & Masuoka, N. (2010). Brown-Utility Heuristic? The Presence and Contributing Factors of Latino Linked Fate. *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*, 32(4), 519-531. doi:10.1177/0739986310383129