Explanatory memo for the replication data of "Why Do Citizens Prefer High-Skilled Immigrants to Low-Skilled Immigrants? Identifying Causal Mechanisms of Immigration Preferences with a Survey Experiment"

Codebook for "replication_data.csv"

This section provides a codebook for "replication_data.csv." This is the data from the main experiment.

Y

The outcome variable; i.e., whether respondents would grant a three- to five-year working visa to a hypothetical immigrant if they were an immigration officer.
0: Do not approve his visa
1: Approve his visa

group

Group assignment.
1: High skill, NMA
2: High skill, economic MMA
3: High skill, welfare MMA
4: High skill, criminal MMA
5: Low skill, NMA
6: Low skill, economic MMA
7: Low skill, welfare MMA
8: Low skill, criminal MMA

W

A dummy variable for the high-skill condition.
0: Low-skill condition
1: High-skill condition

Z

Type of the mediator arm.
1: NMA

2: Economic MMA
3: Welfare MMA
4: Criminal MMA

Z.0
A dummy variable for the NMA.
0: Otherwise
1: NMA

Z.1
A dummy variable for the economic MMA.
0: Otherwise
1: Economic MMA

Z.2
A dummy variable for the welfare MMA.
0: Otherwise
1: Welfare MMA

Z.3
A dummy variable for the criminal MMA.
0: Otherwise
1: Criminal MMA

MC
A response for the following factual manipulation check: “What was the job that the man we described earlier occupied?”
1: Systems engineer
2: Plumber
3: Translator
4: Taxi driver
5: Do not remember

MC.correct
A dummy variable for a correct answer for the factual manipulation check.
0: Incorrect

1: Correct

gender
A respondent's gender.
0: Male
1: Female

age
A respondent's age.

low.edu
A dummy variable indicating that a respondent's educational level is low.
0: More than high school
1: High school or lower

middle.edu
A dummy variable indicating that a respondent's educational level is middle.
0: Higher than high school but lower than college
1: College of technology, junior college, or vocational school

high.edu
A dummy variable indicating that a respondent's educational level is high.
0: Lower than college
1: College or higher

income
A respondent's before-tax annual family income.
1: Less than 1M yen
2: 1–2M yen
3: 2–3M yen
4: 3–4M yen
5: 4–5M yen
6: 5–6M yen
7: 6–7M yen
8: 7–8M yen
9: 8–9M yen

10: 9–10M yen
11: 10–12M yen
12: 12–15M yen
13: 15–20M yen
14: 20–25M yen
15: 25–35M yen
16: 35–50M yen
17: 50M yen or more

knowledge
A respondent's self-reported political knowledge measured by the following question: "Unless you are a politician or a commentator, it is natural that some people are familiar with politics, while others are not. What do you think of yourself?"
1: I think I know well.
2: I think I know well if anything.
3: I can't say either.
4: I think I don't know well if anything.
5: I think I don't know well.

government
A dummy variable indicating that a respondent supported the government parties. Partisanship was measured by the following question: "Which party do you usually support?"
0: Otherwise
1: A respondent chose "the Liberal Democratic Party" or "Komeito."

opposition
A dummy variable indicating that a respondent supported the opposition parties.
0: A respondent chose "the Liberal Democratic Party" or "Komeito" or "do not support any parties."
1: Otherwise

independent
A dummy variable indicating that a respondent did not support any parties.
0: Otherwise
1: A respondent chose "do not support any parties."

ideology

A respondent's ideological self-identification measured by the following question: "How conservative (right) or progressive (left) is your political attitudes?"

1: Very progressive/left
2: Somewhat progressive/left
3: Middle of the road
4: Somewhat conservative/right
5: Very conservative/right

Codebook for "additional_data.csv"

This section provides a codebook for "additional_data.csv." This is the data from the additional experiment reported in the Online Appendix.

Y.1

The outcome variable for a financial analyst; i.e., how likely respondents thought a hypothetical would be to work as a financial analyst after arriving in Japan if his visa was approved.

0: Very low
1: Low
2: Somewhat low
3: Somewhat high
4: High
5: Very high

Y.2

The outcome variable for a business consultant. The options are the same as Y.1.

Y.3

The outcome variable for a think tank researcher. The options are the same as Y.1.

Y.4

The outcome variable for a convenience store clerk. The options are the same as Y.1.

Y.5

The outcome variable for a construction worker. The options are the same as Y.1.

Y.6
The outcome variable for a janitor. The options are the same as Y.1.

W
A dummy variable for the high-skill condition.
0: Low-skill condition
1: High-skill condition

gender
A respondent’s gender.
0: Male
1: Female

age
A respondent’s age.

low.edu
A dummy variable indicating that a respondent’s educational level is low.
0: More than high school
1: High school or lower

middle.edu
A dummy variable indicating that a respondent’s educational level is middle.
0: Higher than high school but lower than college
1: College of technology, junior college, or vocational school

high.edu
A dummy variable indicating that a respondent’s educational level is high.
0: Lower than college
1: College or higher

region
A respondent's region of residence
1: Hokkaido/Tohoku

2: Kanto
3: Chubu
4: Kinki
5: Chugoku/Shikoku
6: Kyushu

Software information

All data analyses in this paper were carried out using R version 4.1.0 and R packages estmatr version 0.30.2.

Details of statistical methods

We explain the details of statistical methods used in this paper in the Online Appendix.