Replication of "Descriptive or Partisan Representation? Examining Trade-Offs for Asian Americans"

John J. Cho, Mia Costa, and Yusaku Horiuchi

***British Journal of Political Science*, forthcoming**

Description

- Do voters want representatives who share their race, ethnicity, or partisanship? We examine this question with a focus on Asian Americans who face trade-offs between descriptive (i.e., Asian American or "pan-ethnic") and partisan representation, as well as trade-offs involving "co-ethnic" (e.g., Korean for Korean) and "cross-ethnic" (e.g., Indian for Korean) descriptive representation. Across two experiments, we find that when Asian Americans are asked about collective representation in Congress, they prioritize more co-ethnic and pan-ethnic legislators over co-partisan legislators. However, in a competitive electoral setting, they often trade off race/ethnicity for partisanship. Asian Americans are only willing to cross party lines to vote for a co-ethnic candidate, but never for a cross- or pan-ethnic candidate. These findings shed light on the importance of considering heterogeneous preferences along ethnicities within the same racial "in-group," such as Asian Americans, a heavily understudied and heterogeneous group in American politics.

About data

- The main survey file is the `data` folder.

Files included in this package:

- `README.md`
- `REAME.pdf` – generated by `README.md`
- `cho-costa-horiuchi.Rproj` (for RStudio)
- `master.R` – a master file that sources all other scripts.
- renv (folder)
  - Files generated by the `renv` package (version 1.1.5)
  - See https://rstudio.github.io/renv/index.html.
- `renv.lock`
  - A file generated by the `renv` package (version 1.1.5)
- data (folder)
  - Original data necessary for replication
- documents (folder)
  - code books and other documents relevant to the original data
- figures (folder)
  - All files are generated by the scripts
- functions (folder)
  - Functions used in the scripts
- output (folder)
  - All files are generated by the scripts

- scripts
  - R scripts for complete replication

Remarks:

- If you use RStudio, click `cho-costa-horiuchi.Rproj` to launch RStudio and set the working directory automatically.
- If you do not use RStudio, manually set the working directory, which is the folder that includes `cho-costa-horiuchi.Rproj`.

Program:

- R (version 4.4.2)

Additional programs required:

- `tidyverse` (version 2.0.0)
- `estimatr` (version 1.0.6)
- `ggthemes` (version 5.1.0)
- `modelsummary` (version 2.5.0)
- `patchwork` (version 1.3.2)

Process of replication:

- If you use RStudio, install `renv` (a package to create reproducible environments). Then, type `renv::restore()` to restore a project's dependencies from a lockfile.
- If you do not use RStudio, install the packages manually.
- Then, run the scripts sequentially.

Most recent date of successful replication November 20, 2025