Hyoung-jin Shin (shin@brown.edu)

Nativity, Language, Education, and Pan-Hispanic Intermarriage

Introduction

Panethnicity among the people of Hispanic origin remains an important subject of social science research. While some scholars claim that pan-Hispanic ethnicity is part of a greater assimilation process arguing that adopting such labeling is a sign of attenuating distinctive ethnic boundaries, others maintain that the development of panethnicity is not associated with incorporation into the mainstream society. This study attempts to contribute to the understanding of pan-Hispanic ethnicity by investigating the role of nativity, language, and education on panethnic intermarriage among persons of different Hispanic national origins. Investigating panethnic intermarriage patterns among different Hispanic groups contributes to our understanding of ethnic group boundaries, and sheds light on the nature of pan-Hispanic ethnicity. This study tests key research hypothesis derived from assimilation models and cultural pluralism utilizing multivariate log-linear models and other statistical methods.

Data and Methods

Using the 2000 U.S. Census 5 percent PUMS, six race/ethnic categories for husbands and wives- 1) non-Hispanic white; 2) non-Hispanic minorities; 3) Mexicans; 4) Cubans; 5) Dominicans; and 6) All other Hispanics- are cross-classified. Mexicans, Cubans, and Dominicans are selected as target groups because each of the groups represents key elements of the diversity within the Hispanic population in terms of their

racial, socioeconomic, and historical background. The sample is restricted to currently married couples age 20-34 who had been living in the same MSA for at least five years before the census to control the timing and the place of marriage. In addition, only foreign-born persons who immigrated to this country before age 20 are included in the sample to control their marriage is more likely to have been contracted in the U.S. After weighted by the household weight, the sample restriction yields a total of 6,745,150 couples.

Technically speaking, the key statistical analysis for this study is a series of four-way log-linear models estimating the effects of a specific characteristic of the husband and the wife referenced by k and l on the propensity of marriage between men and women in the race/ethnic group i and j controlling for the marginal distribution in the cross-classification. More specifically, individual characteristics of nativity, linguistic assimilation, and educational attainment are added one at a time in the four-way log-linear model to examine how the individual characteristics of husbands and wives (k and l) interact with their national origin (i and j) in intermarriage. The baseline log-linear model is specified as follows:

$$\log F_{ijkl} = \beta_0 + \beta_i + \beta_j + \beta_k + \beta_l + \beta_{ik} + \beta_{jl} + \beta_{kl} \quad \textbf{(Model 1)}$$

Where F_{ijkl} indicates the expected frequency for marriages between men in the race/ethnic group i and women in j, k and l denote a specific characteristic (either nativity, language assimilation, or educational attainment) of husbands and wives. Accordingly, β_i and β_j represent the marginal distribution of men and women in different race/ethnic groups. If k and l denote nativity of husbands and wives, β_k, β_l, β_{ik}, and β_{jl}

indicate the marginal distribution of nativity status for men and women whereas β_{kl} stands for the association between husbands' and wives' nativity.

Next model introduces the series of endogamy parameters. Where X_{ij} equals 1 if $i = j$ ($X_{ij} = 0$ otherwise), ε_k, ε_l, and ε_{kl} represent the effects of a specific characteristic (either of nativity, language assimilation, or educational attainment) of men and women, and the association between them:

$$\log F_{ijkl} = \text{Model 1} + (\varepsilon + \varepsilon_k + \varepsilon_l + \varepsilon_{kl}) X_{ij} \quad \textbf{(Model 2)}$$

Finally, the pan-Hispanic intermarriage parameters are introduced in the model. Where $Y_{i'j'}$ is a dummy that equals 1 when the husband and the wife are within a broad category of Hispanic but $i' \neq j'$ ($Y_{i'j'} = 0$ otherwise), the series of θ parameters stand for the effects of a specific characteristic of husbands and the wives and their interaction:

$$\log F_{ijkl} = \text{Model 2} + (\theta + \theta_k + \theta_l + \theta_{kl}) Y_{i'j'} \quad \textbf{(Model 3)}$$

Utilizing the likelihood ratios and the BIC statistics, the goodness of fit for log-linear models are assessed in order to investigate which individual characteristic among the three (nativity, language, and education) is a more salient parameter that others for pan-Hispanic intermarriage.

Initial Findings

Table 1 provides the likelihood for the three different ethnic pairs of pan-Hispanic intermarriage ($\lambda_{i'j'}$) on various types of individual homogamy ($k = l$) estimated from

Model 3. As specified by the statistical model, these are net effects controlling for the marginal distributions, ethnic endogamy, and other types of intermarriage.

Table 1. Overview of the individual homogamy ($k = l$) effect on pan-ethnic intermarriage ($\lambda_{i'j'}$)

k and *l* \ *i* and *j*	Cuban-Dominican	Cuban-Mexican	Dominican-Mexican
Both US-born	5.83	0.80	0.36
Both Foreign-born	17.93	3.54	1.99
Both English	0.00	1.54	4.27
Both Bilingual	11.96	1.95	0.85
Both Spanish	20.23	2.13	2.24
Both College and more	10.65	2.47	1.91
Both Some College	10.46	1.63	0.29
Both HS and less	14.25	2.57	0.93

The findings from the initial analysis can be summarized as follow: First, pan-Hispanic intermarriage is more likely for the foreign-born than the native-born. Secondly, the propensity of pan-Hispanic intermarriage is reduced by linguistic assimilation process. Finally, the relation between educational attainment and panethnic intermarriage is mostly curvilinear.

The patterns observed here imply that pan-Hispanic intermarriage is analogous to ethnic endogamy, which is gradually reduced by nativity and linguistic assimilation. This implies that pan-Hispanic ethnicity is a transient trend during the greater process of assimilation, and it does not bring about durable "panethnic" divisions into the American race/ethnicity system.