

# Latine Adolescents' Responses to Political Climates: Examining Familism Values as a Moderator

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## INTRODUCTION AND STUDY PURPOSE

Expansions in immigration enforcement policies and increased media attention to such changes have increased in recent years<sup>1,2</sup>.

### IMMIGRATION POLICY RESPONSES (IPR)

Youth's emotional and behavioral immigration policy responses (IPR) can include social withdrawal, feelings of worry, and behavior modifications<sup>3</sup>.

The integrative model of developmental competencies<sup>4</sup> suggests culturally relevant stressors are salient to youth mental health<sup>5,6</sup> and academic motivation (i.e., the effort that adolescents apply toward school-related tasks, the importance they place on education, and their enjoyment of school)<sup>7</sup>.

### PROTECTIVE & RISK FACTORS

We know less about the factors that assuage or exacerbate youth's IPR.

Familism values encompass the importance of fulfilling familial duties (obligations), maintaining family unity (support), and prioritizing family (referent)<sup>8</sup>.

Whereas familism values are generally linked to positive adjustment for youth<sup>9,10</sup>, familism obligation values may exacerbate the impact of IPR on youths' mental health. That is, threats to family safety may relate to youths' outcomes most strongly among those who value helping their families most.

### CURRENT STUDY

This study used cross-sectional data from Latine adolescents to examine:

- (1) how immigration policy responses are related to anxiety and depressive symptoms, and academic motivation.
- (2) whether familism values moderate these links.

**We hypothesized that more IPR will be linked to more depressive and anxiety symptoms and less academic motivation and familism values will be a significant moderator.**

## METHODS

### PARTICIPANTS AND PROCEDURES

Data were collected from a larger longitudinal study examining the well-being of 231 Latine parent-child dyads during COVID-19 in a U.S. Southwestern metropolitan area.

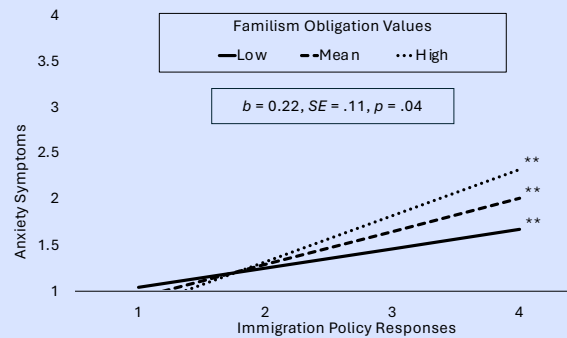
### MEASURES

Covariates: Age (continuous), gender (0 = cisgender and transgender girls and non-binary youth, 1 = cisgender and transgender boys), parent & youth nativity (0 = immigrant, 1 = U.S.-Born), family income (continuous).

Measures	Citation	Items / Subscales	Scale	Reliability
Immigration Policy Responses	Roche et al., 2018	13 items	5-point Likert (1 = almost never/ never to 4 = almost always/ always)	$\alpha = .94$
Familism Values	Knight et al., 2010	Support (6 items) Obligations (5 items) Referent (5 items)	5-point Likert (1 = not at all to 5 = completely)	$\alpha > .89$
Anxiety Symptoms	Mills et al., 2014	7 items	4-point Likert (1 = I did not experience this event to 4 = nearly everyday)	$\alpha = .93$
Depressive Symptoms	Radloff, 1977	10 items	4-point Likert (1 = rarely or none of the time to 4 = most of the time)	$\alpha = .85$
Academic Motivation	Plunkett & Bámaca-Gómez, 2003	5 items	4-point Likert (1 = strongly disagree to 4 = strongly agree)	$\alpha = .80$

**Though familism values are generally linked to better adjustment, familism obligation values exacerbated the relationship between immigration policy responses and anxiety symptoms.**

	Familism Obligations Model 1a b (SE)	Familism Support Model 2a b (SE)	Familism Referent Model 3a b (SE)
<b>Anxiety Symptoms</b>			
Intercept	1.07 (.25)**	1.05 (.24)**	1.04 (.25)**
Age	0.04 (.04)	0.03 (.04)	0.03 (.04)
Family Income	0.04 (.02)*	0.03 (.02)*	0.04 (.02)*
Gender	-0.37 (.11)**	-0.31 (.11)**	-0.33 (.11)**
Youth Nativity	0.14 (.26)	0.12 (.25)	0.16 (.26)
Parent Nativity	0.18 (.12)	0.19 (.11)	0.16 (.11)
Immigration Policy Responses	<b>0.32 (.09)**</b>	<b>0.30 (.08)**</b>	<b>0.31 (.09)**</b>
Familism Obligations	-0.07 (.08)	-	-
Familism Support	-	<b>-0.23 (.06)**</b>	-
Familism Referent	-	-	<b>-0.13 (.06)*</b>
<b>Depressive Symptoms</b>			
Intercept	1.90 (.19)**	1.89 (.18)**	1.88 (.19)**
Age	0.03 (.03)	0.02 (.03)	0.02 (.03)
Family Income	0.01 (.01)	0.01 (.01)	0.01 (.01)
Gender	-0.28 (.08)**	-0.25 (.08)**	-0.25 (.08)**
Youth Nativity	0.20 (.20)	0.18 (.19)	0.21 (.19)
Parent Nativity	0.05 (.09)	0.08 (.08)	0.05 (.09)
Immigration Policy Responses	<b>0.26 (.06)**</b>	<b>0.24 (.06)**</b>	<b>0.25 (.06)**</b>
Familism Obligations	-0.10 (.06)	-	-
Familism Support	-	<b>-0.22 (.04)**</b>	-
Familism Referent	-	-	<b>-0.14 (.05)**</b>
<b>Academic Motivation</b>			
Intercept	3.19 (.20)**	3.14 (.23)**	3.21 (.23)**
Age	-0.04 (.03)	-0.04 (.03)	-0.03 (.03)
Family Income	0.01 (.01)	0.02 (.01)	0.01 (.01)
Gender	-0.09 (.08)	-0.07 (.08)	-0.12 (.08)
Youth Nativity	-0.05 (.24)	0.01 (.24)	-0.07 (.24)
Parent Nativity	-0.06 (.08)	-0.11 (.08)	-0.06 (.08)
Immigration Policy Responses	-0.08 (.06)	-0.07 (.06)	-0.07 (.06)
Familism Obligations	<b>0.19 (.05)**</b>	-	-
Familism Support	-	<b>0.15 (.04)**</b>	-
Familism Referent	-	-	<b>0.17 (.04)**</b>



## METHODS CONT.

### ANALYTIC PLAN

Path analyses were conducted in Mplus version 8.9<sup>13</sup> to assess the main effects of youths' IPR on their anxiety, depressive symptoms, and academic motivation.

The independent variable and each moderator were mean centered and used to compute 2-way interaction terms to assess the moderating role of each facet of familism values (i.e., obligations, support, referent) on adjustment.

Significant interactions were probed using simple slopes analyses<sup>14</sup>.

Missing data were handled using full information maximum likelihood<sup>15</sup>.

Every available path that was estimated; thus, all models are just identified.

## RESULTS

### MAIN EFFECTS – RESEARCH AIM 1

- Greater IPR was related to higher anxiety and depressive symptoms, but not academic motivation.
- Higher familism support and referent values were related to lower anxiety and depressive symptoms, but familism obligation values were not.
- All subdimensions of familism values were positively linked to academic motivation.

### INTERACTION EFFECTS – RESEARCH AIM 2

- At high levels of familism obligation, greater IPR was related to higher anxiety symptoms; whereas, at low levels of obligations, this relationship was weakened (Model 1b).
- Familism support and referent values did not moderate the link between IPR and our outcomes.

## DISCUSSION

Feeling a strong sense of obligation towards one's family may increase the salience of IPR for youth's mental health symptomatology, particularly in relation to their anxiety.

Contrary to our hypothesis, familism support and referent values did not moderate the link between IPR and our outcomes. This may be due to behaviors in line with familism support and referent values being more protective than values alone<sup>16</sup>.

Other culturally relevant stressors that youth can encounter in school contexts (e.g., discrimination) may be more salient for academic engagement than immigration policy responses.

Implications of this study include informing future research and programming regarding cultural strengths that can protect against IPR.

### STRENGTHS & LIMITATIONS

Study strengths include a focus on understanding nuances of familism values and their interaction with culturally relevant stressors.

Limitations include cross-sectional data, low variability in adolescents' nativity, and a lack of parent-reports.

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### REFERENCES