Kenji or Kenneth? Pearl Harbor and Japanese-American Assimilation

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July 2019

Motivation

Motivation

- Does anti-immigrant sentiment affect assimilation?
  - Turn inward and become increasing isolated?
  - Assimilate and attempt to avoid discrimination?
- Causality could go in the other direction

Motivation

- View Pearl Harbor as suddenly changing the world from low to high levels of anti-Japanese sentiment
- Use a regression discontinuity in time approach to show that Japanese Americans picked more assimilated names after Pearl Harbor
- Use data from the roster of internees

Historical background

HOW TO TELL JAPS FROM THE CHINESE

ANGRY CITIZENS VICTIMIZE ALLIES WITH EMOTIONAL OUTBURST AT ENEMY

In the first discharge of emotions touched off by the Japanese assaults on their nation, U. S. citizens have been demonstrating a distressing ignorance on the delicate question of how to tell a Chinese from a Jap. Innocent victims in cities all over the country are many of the 75,000 U. S. Chinese, whose homeland is our stanch ally. So serious were the consequences threatened, that the Chinese consulates last week prepared to tag their nationals with identification buttons. To dispel some of this confusion, LIFE here adduces a rule-of-thumb from the anthropometric conformations that distinguish friendly Chinese from enemy alien Japs.

To physical anthropologists, devoted debunkers of race myths, the difference between Chinese and Japs is measurable in millimeters. Both are related to the Eskimo and North American Indian. The modern Jap is the descendant of Mongoloids who invaded the Japanese archipelago back in the mists of prehistory, and of the native aborigines who possessed the islands before them. Physical anthropology, in consequence, finds Japs and Chinese as closely related as Germans and English. It can, however, set apart the special types of each national group.

The typical Northern Chinese, represented by Ong Wen-hao, Chungking's Minister of Economic Affairs (*left, above*), is relatively tall and slenderly built. His complexion is parchment yellow, his face long and delicately boned, his nose more finely bridged. Representative of the Japanese people as a whole is Premier and General Hideki Tojo (*left, below*), who betrays aboriginal antecedents in a squat, long-torsoed build, a broader, more massively boned head and face, flat, often pug, nose, yellow-ocher skin and heavier beard. From this average type, aristocratic Japs, who claim kinship to the Imperial Household, diverge sharply. They are proud to approximate the patrician lines of the Northern Chinese.

Chinese public servant, Ong Wen-hao, is representative of North Chinese anthropological group with long, fine-boned face and scant beard. Epicanthic fold of skin above eyelid is found in 85% of Chinese. Southern Chinese have round, broad faces, not as massively boned as the Japanese. Except that their skin is darker, this description fits Filipinos who are often mistaken for Japs. Chinese sometimes pass for Europeans; but Japs more often approach Western types.

Japanese warrior, General Hideki Tojo, current Premier, is a Samurai, closer to type of humble Jap than highbred relatives of Imperial Household. Typical are his heavy beard, massive cheek and jaw bones. Peasant Jap is squat Mongoloid, with flat, blob nose. An often sounder clue is facial expression, shaped by cultural, not anthropological, factors. Chinese wear rational calm of tolerant realists. Japs, like General Tojo, show humorless intensity of ruthless mystics.

Chinese journalist, Joe Chiang, found it necessary to advertise his nationality to gain admittance to White House press conference. Under Immigration Act of 1924, Japs and Chinese, as members of the "yellow race," are barred from immigration and naturalization.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Historical background

Japanese Couple Slain by Filipino

EL CENTRO, Jan. 1 (AP) — A Japanese and his wife were shot to death early today on a ranch near Brawley, Sheriff R. W. Ware reported by a man identified as a Filipino by a son of the slain couple. Victims were Shinchiji Kikuchi, 69, and Mitsuko Kikuchi, 47.

JAP, FILIPINO DISTRICT UNDER GUARD; 1 SLAIN

STOCKTON, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Sharp restrictions have been imposed on the activities of the 4000 Japanese and Filipino residents of Stockton to prevent hatreds born of racial and economic quarrels from bursting into internecine conflict.

For two years — since Japanese workers snapped up celery field jobs left vacant by striking Filipinos—animosity has simmered between the two groups. Occasionally it has boiled into isolated but sharp and deadly knife encounters.

Then Japanese military forces assaulted the Filipinos' homeland. Instantly it was reflected in heightened tension between the two groups here. Children fought in the streets. Police patrols were doubled where Japanese and Filipinos rubbed shoulders.

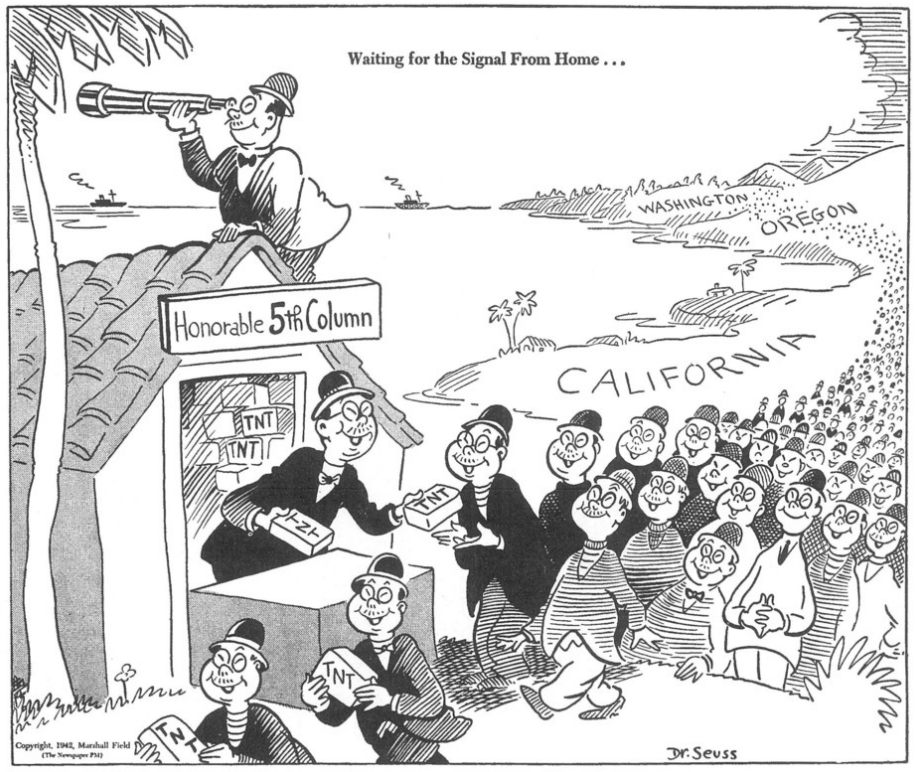
GANGS SMASH WINDOWS

JAPANESE SHOT IN SACRAMENTO; BLAMES FILIPINO

SACRAMENTO, Dec. 30.—(AP)—A Japanese alien, 57, hurrying to get his camera to turn in at police headquarters for registration, was shot from the rear last night in downtown Sacramento, assertedly by a Filipino.

The Japanese was Yoshie Sake-

Historical background



Historical background

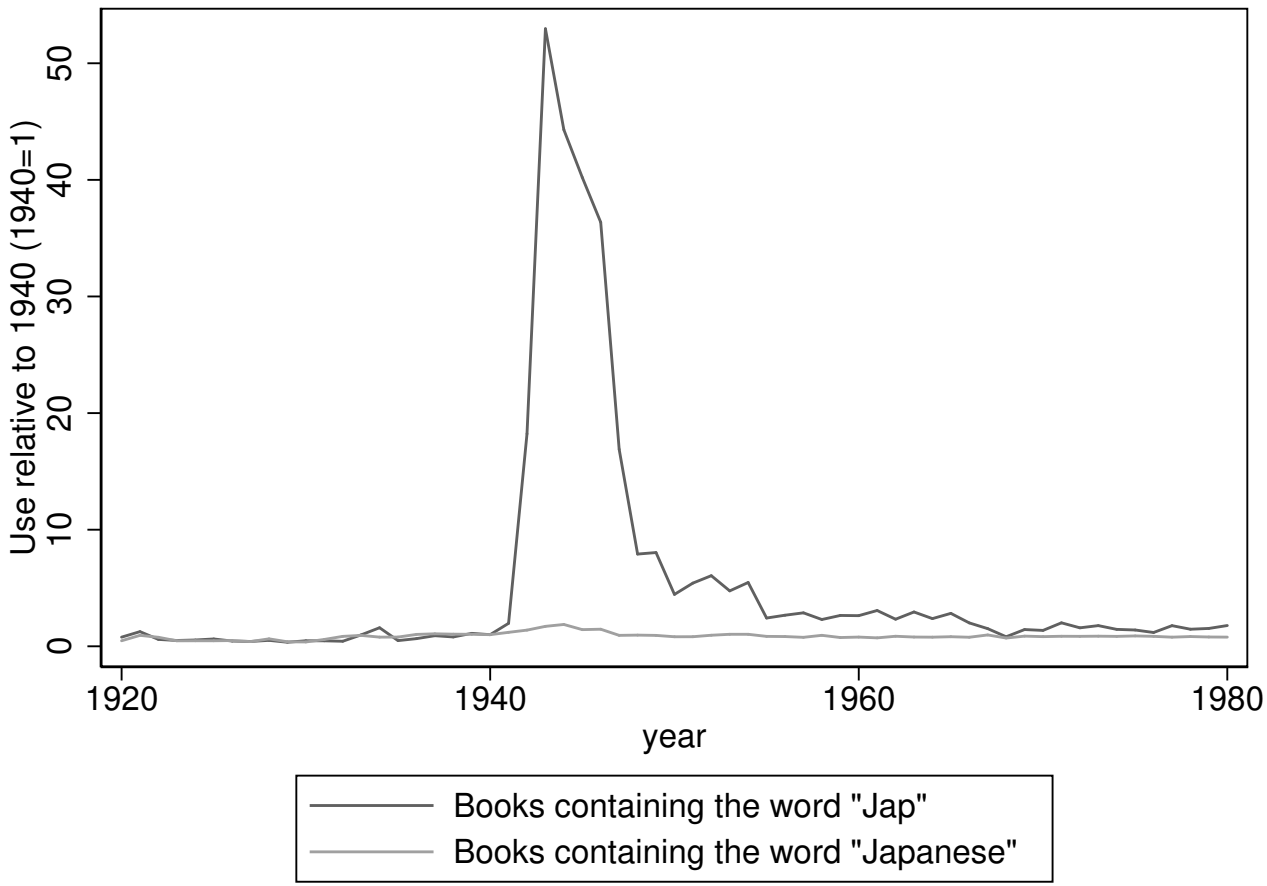
Loyalty questionnaire

27. *Are you willing to serve in the armed forces of the United States on combat duty, wherever ordered?*
28. *Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America and faithfully defend the United States from any or all attack by foreign or domestic forces, and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, or any other foreign government, power, or organization?*

Historical background

Historical background

Figure: Percent of books in Google N-grams that contain the word "Jap" by publication year



Previous literature

- Immigrant assimilation and names: Gould and Klor (2016), Fouka (2018), Moser (2012), Abramitzky et al (2016)
- Black names: Fryer and Levitt (2004), Cook et al (2016), Bertrand and Mullainathan (2004)
- Internment of Japanese Americans: Chin (2005), Saavedra (2015), Shoag and Carollo (2016), Arellano-Nover (2018)

Data

- To generate an Americanized Name Index, data the 1900-1930 censuses
- First name and race for whites and Japanese Americans
- Estimate the following:

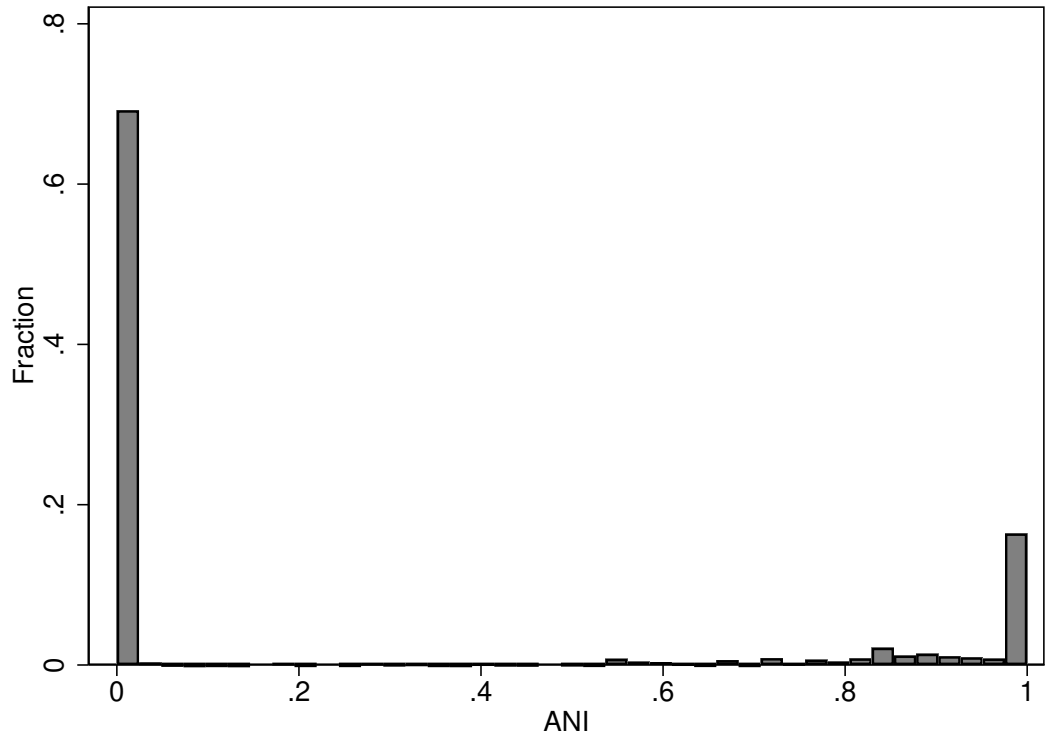
$$\text{ANI}_{\text{name}} = \frac{\Pr(\text{name}|\text{White})}{\Pr(\text{name}|\text{White}) + \Pr(\text{name}|\text{Japanese})}.$$

Data

Name	ANI
Most Japanese names	
Sachiko	0
Hiroshi	0
Kenji	0
Intermediate names	
Patricia	0.54
George	0.55
Naomi	0.57
Most Americanized names	
Ronald	1
Dennis	1
Kenneth	1

Distribution of ANI

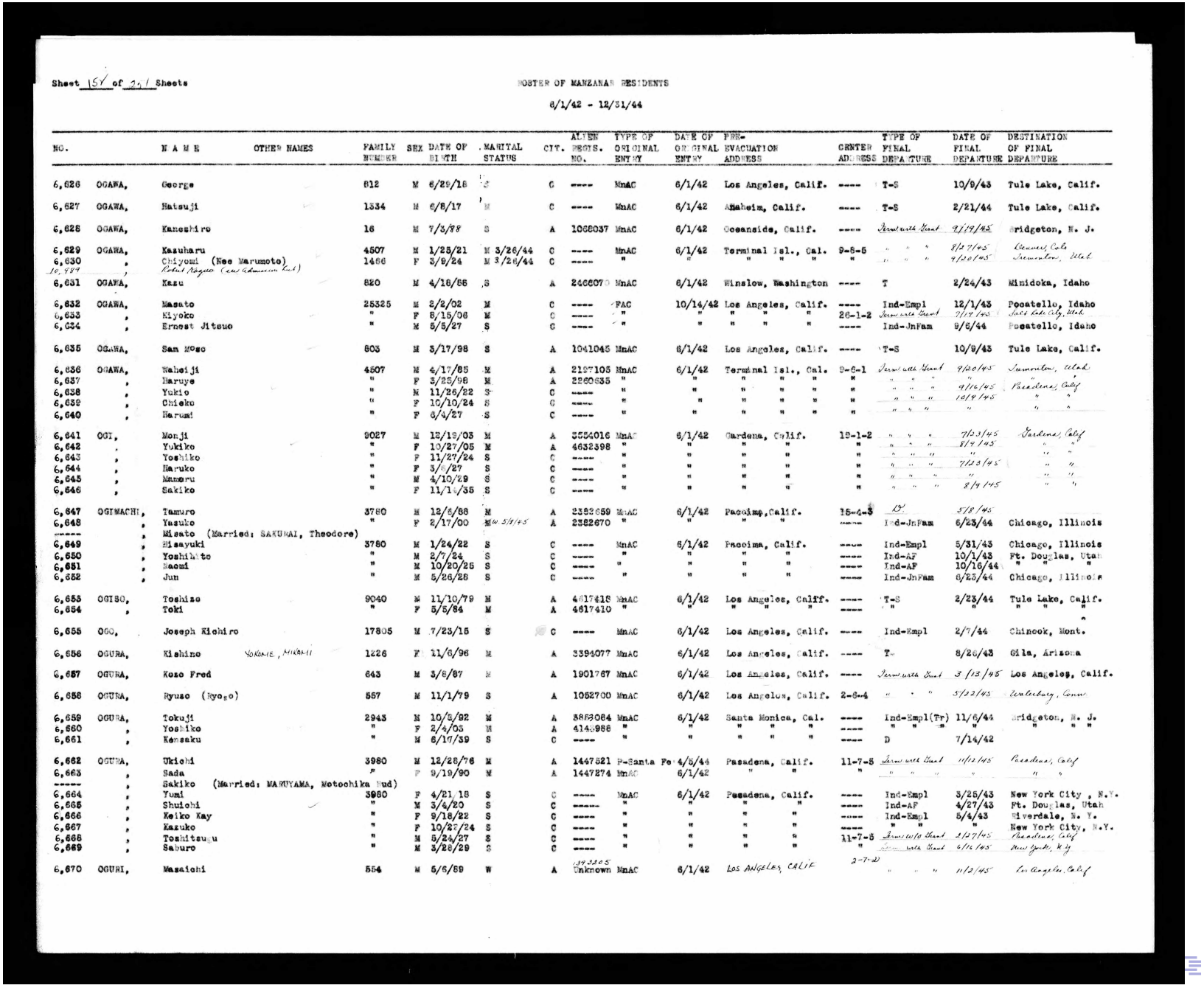
Figure: Distribution of the Americanized Name Index for Japanese American internees



Data

- Data come from the Final Accountability Roster of Evacuees at Relocation Centers
- Includes full names, exact birth day, exact entry and exit date, and state of incarceration
- Restrict sample to those born between 1938 and 1945
- Family identifiers are inferred
- Link first name with ANI

Data



Sheet 154 of 241 Sheets

POSTER OF MANZANAR RESIDENTS

8/1/42 - 12/31/44

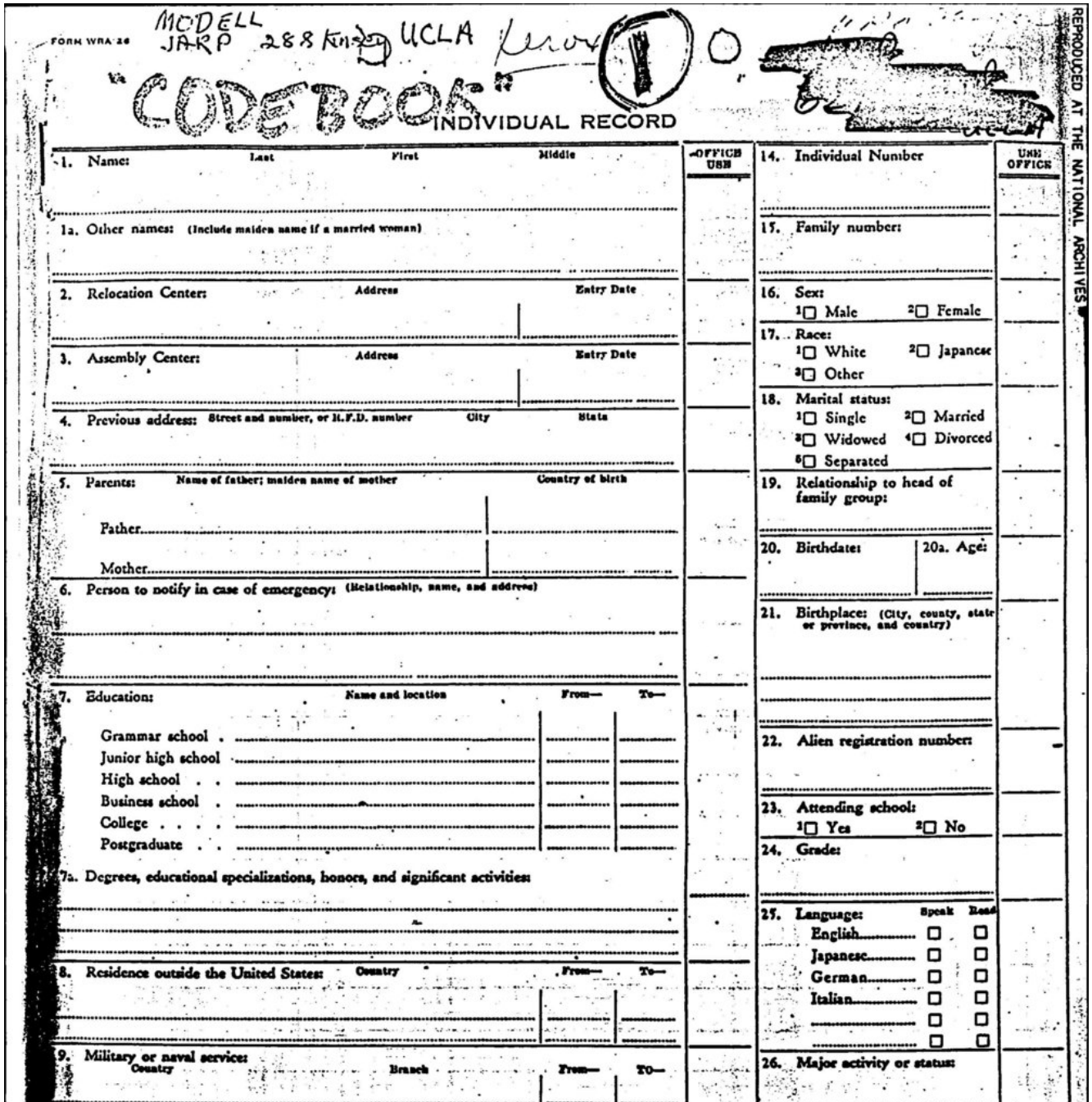
NO.		NAME	OTHER NAMES	FAMILY NUMBER	SEX	DATE OF BIRTH	MARITAL STATUS	CIT.	ALIEN REGIS. NO.	TYPE OF ORIGINAL ENTRY	DATE OF ORIGINAL ENTRY	PRE-EVACUATION ADDRESS	CENTER ADDRESS	TYPE OF FINAL DEPARTURE	DATE OF FINAL DEPARTURE	DESTINATION OF FINAL DEPARTURE
6,626	OGAWA,	George		812	M	6/29/18	S	C	----	MnAC	6/1/42	Los Angeles, Calif.	----	T-S	10/9/43	Tule Lake, Calif.
6,627	OGAWA,	Hatsuji		1334	M	6/6/17	M	C	----	MnAC	6/1/42	Anaheim, Calif.	----	T-S	2/21/44	Tule Lake, Calif.
6,628	OGAWA,	Kaneshiro		16	M	7/3/88	S	A	1066037	MnAC	6/1/42	Oceanside, Calif.	----	Terminated Grant	9/19/45	Bridgeton, N. J.
6,629	OGAWA,	Kazuharu		4507	M	1/25/21	M 3/26/44	C	----	MnAC	6/1/42	Terminal Isl., Cal.	9-8-5	" " "	8/27/45	Denver, Colo
6,630	,	Chiyomi (Nee Marumoto)		1466	F	3/9/24	M 3/26/44	C	----	"	" " " "	" " " "	"	" " "	9/20/45	Bremerton, Wash.
10,789	,	Robert Nagaro (see Admission Rec)														
6,631	OGAWA,	Kazu		820	M	4/16/86	S	A	2466073	MnAC	6/1/42	Winslow, Washington	----	T	2/24/43	Minidoka, Idaho
6,632	OGAWA,	Masato		25325	M	2/2/02	M	C	----	FAC	10/14/42	Los Angeles, Calif.	----	Ind-Empl	12/1/43	Pocatello, Idaho
6,633	,	Kiyoko		"	F	8/15/06	M	C	----	"			26-1-2	Terminated Grant	7/17/45	Salt Lake City, Utah
6,634	,	Ernest Jitsuo		"	M	5/5/27	S	C	----	"	" " " "	" " " "	----	Ind-JnFam	9/6/44	Pocatello, Idaho
6,635	OGAWA,	San Moso		803	M	3/17/98	S	A	1041045	MnAC	6/1/42	Los Angeles, Calif.	----	T-S	10/9/43	Tule Lake, Calif.
6,636	OGAWA,	Waheiji		4507	M	4/17/85	M	A	2197105	MnAC	6/1/42	Terminal Isl., Cal.	9-8-1	Terminated Grant	9/20/45	Somerton, Utah
6,637	,	Haruye		"	F	3/25/98	M	A	2260835	"	" " " "	" " " "	"	" " "	"	"
6,638	,	Yukio		"	M	11/26/22	S	C	----	"	" " " "	" " " "	"	" " "	9/16/45	Pasadena, Calif
6,639	,	Chieko		"	F	10/10/24	S	C	----	"	" " " "	" " " "	"	" " "	10/4/45	" "
6,640	,	Harumi		"	F	6/4/27	S	C	----	"	" " " "	" " " "	"	" " "	"	" "
6,641	OGI,	Monji		9027	M	12/13/03	M	A	3554016	MnAC	6/1/42	Gardena, Calif.	19-1-2	" " "	7/23/45	Gardena, Calif
6,642	,	Yukiko		"	F	10/27/05	M	A	4632398	"	" " "	" " "	"	" " "	8/4/45	" "
6,643	,	Yoshiko		"	F	11/27/24	S	C	----	"	" " "	" " "	"	" " "	"	" "
6,644	,	Haruko		"	F	3/ /27	S	C	----	"	" " "	" " "	"	" " "	7/23/45	" "
6,645	,	Mamoru		"	M	4/10/29	S	C	----	"	" " "	" " "	"	" " "	"	" "
6,646	,	Sakiko		"	F	11/1 /35	S	C	----	"	" " "	" " "	"	" " "	8/4/45	" "
6,647	OGIMACHI,	Tamuro		3780	M	12/8/88	M	A	2382659	MnAC	6/1/42	Pacoima, Calif.	18-4-3	D	5/18/45	
6,648	,	Yasuko		"	F	2/17/00	M 5/9/45	A	2382670	"	" " "	" " "	----	Ind-JnFam	6/23/44	Chicago, Illinois
-----	,	Misato (Married: SAKURAI, Theodore)														
6,649	,	Misayuki		3780	M	1/24/22	S	C	----	MnAC	6/1/42	Pacoima, Calif.	----	Ind-Empl	5/31/43	Chicago, Illinois
6,650	,	Yoshihito		"	M	2/7/24	S	C	----	"	" " "	" " "	----	Ind-AF	10/1/43	Ft. Douglas, Utah
6,651	,	Naomi		"	M	10/20/25	S	C	----	"	" " "	" " "	----	Ind-AF	10/16/44	" " "
6,652	,	Jun		"	M	5/26/26	S	C	----	"	" " "	" " "	----	Ind-JnFam	6/23/44	Chicago, Illinois
6,653	OGISO,	Toshizo		9040	M	11/10/79	M	A	4617418	MnAC	6/1/42	Los Angeles, Calif.	----	T-S	2/23/44	Tule Lake, Calif.
6,654	,	Toki		"	F	5/5/84	M	A	4617410	"	" " "	" " "	----	" " "	" " "	" " "
6,655	OGO,	Joseph Kichiro		17805	M	7/23/15	S	C	----	MnAC	6/1/42	Los Angeles, Calif.	----	Ind-Empl	2/7/44	Chinook, Mont.
6,656	OGURA,	Kishino	YOKOMIE, MIKAMI	1226	F	11/6/96	M	A	3394077	MnAC	6/1/42	Los Angeles, Calif.	----	T-	8/26/43	Gila, Arizona
6,657	OGURA,	Koso Fred		643	M	3/8/87	M	A	1901787	MnAC	6/1/42	Los Angeles, Calif.	----	Terminated Grant	3/13/45	Los Angeles, Calif.
6,658	OGURA,	Ryuso (Ryogo)		557	M	11/1/79	S	A	1052700	MnAC	6/1/42	Los Angeles, Calif.	2-8-4	" " "	5/22/45	Waterbury, Conn.
6,659	OGURA,	Tokuji		2943	M	10/3/92	M	A	3853084	MnAC	6/1/42	Santa Monica, Cal.	----	Ind-Empl(Fr)	11/6/44	Bridgeton, N. J.
6,660	,	Yoshiko		"	F	2/4/03	M	A	4145988	"	" " "	" " "	----	" " "	" " "	" " "
6,661	,	Kensaku		"	M	6/17/39	S	C	----	"	" " "	" " "	----	D	7/14/42	
6,662	OGURA,	Ukichi		3980	M	12/28/76	M	A	1447321	P-Santa Fe	4/8/44	Pasadena, Calif.	11-7-5	Terminated Grant	11/12/45	Pasadena, Calif
6,663	,	Sada		"	F	9/19/90	M	A	1447274	MnAC	6/1/42	" "	"	" " "	" " "	" "
-----	,	Sakiko (Married: MATSUYAMA, Motoshika Mud)														
6,664	,	Yumi		3980	F	4/21/18	S	C	----	MnAC	6/1/42	Pasadena, Calif.	----	Ind-Empl	3/25/43	New York City, N.Y.
6,665	,	Shuichi		"	M	3/4/20	S	C	----	"	" " "	" " "	----	Ind-AF	4/27/43	Ft. Douglas, Utah
6,666	,	Keiko Kay		"	F	9/18/22	S	C	----	"	" " "	" " "	----	Ind-Empl	5/4/43	Riverdale, N. Y.
6,667	,	Kazuko		"	F	10/22/24	S	C	----	"	" " "	" " "	----	" " "	"	New York City, N.Y.
6,668	,	Toshitsugu		"	M	5/24/27	S	C	----	"	" " "	" " "	11-7-5	Terminated Grant	2/27/45	Pasadena, Calif
6,669	,	Saburo		"	M	3/28/29	S	C	----	"	" " "	" " "	"	Terminated Grant	6/12/45	New York, N.Y.
6,670	OGURI,	Masaichi		554	M	5/6/89	W	A	1993205 Unknown	MnAC	6/1/42	Los Angeles, Calif	2-7-2	" " "	11/13/45	Los Angeles, Calif

Data

Not the same as "Records About Japanese Americans Relocated During World War II" from the National Archives

- That does not have birth day (at least digitized)
- But does have education, occupation, citizenship
- Stops for those born around 1942
- Link both data sets using similar methods to Feigenbaum (2016)

Data



FORM WRA 26

MODELL JARP 288 Kn UCLA

"CODEBOOK"

INDIVIDUAL RECORD

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

1. Name: Last First Middle

1a. Other names: (Include maiden name if a married woman)

2. Relocation Center: Address Entry Date

3. Assembly Center: Address Entry Date

4. Previous address: Street and number, or R.F.D. number City State

5. Parents: Name of father; maiden name of mother Country of birth

Father

Mother

6. Person to notify in case of emergency: (Relationship, name, and address)

7. Education: Name and location From— To—

Grammar school

Junior high school

High school

Business school

College

Postgraduate

7a. Degrees, educational specializations, honors, and significant activities:

8. Residence outside the United States: Country From— To—

9. Military or naval service: Country Branch From— To—

OFFICE USE

14. Individual Number

15. Family number:

16. Sex: [1] Male [2] Female

17. Race: [1] White [2] Japanese [3] Other

18. Marital status: [1] Single [2] Married [3] Widowed [4] Divorced [5] Separated

19. Relationship to head of family group:

20. Birthdate: 20a. Age:

21. Birthplace: (City, county, state or province, and country)

22. Alien registration number:

23. Attending school: [1] Yes [2] No

24. Grade:

25. Language: Speak Read

English

Japanese

German

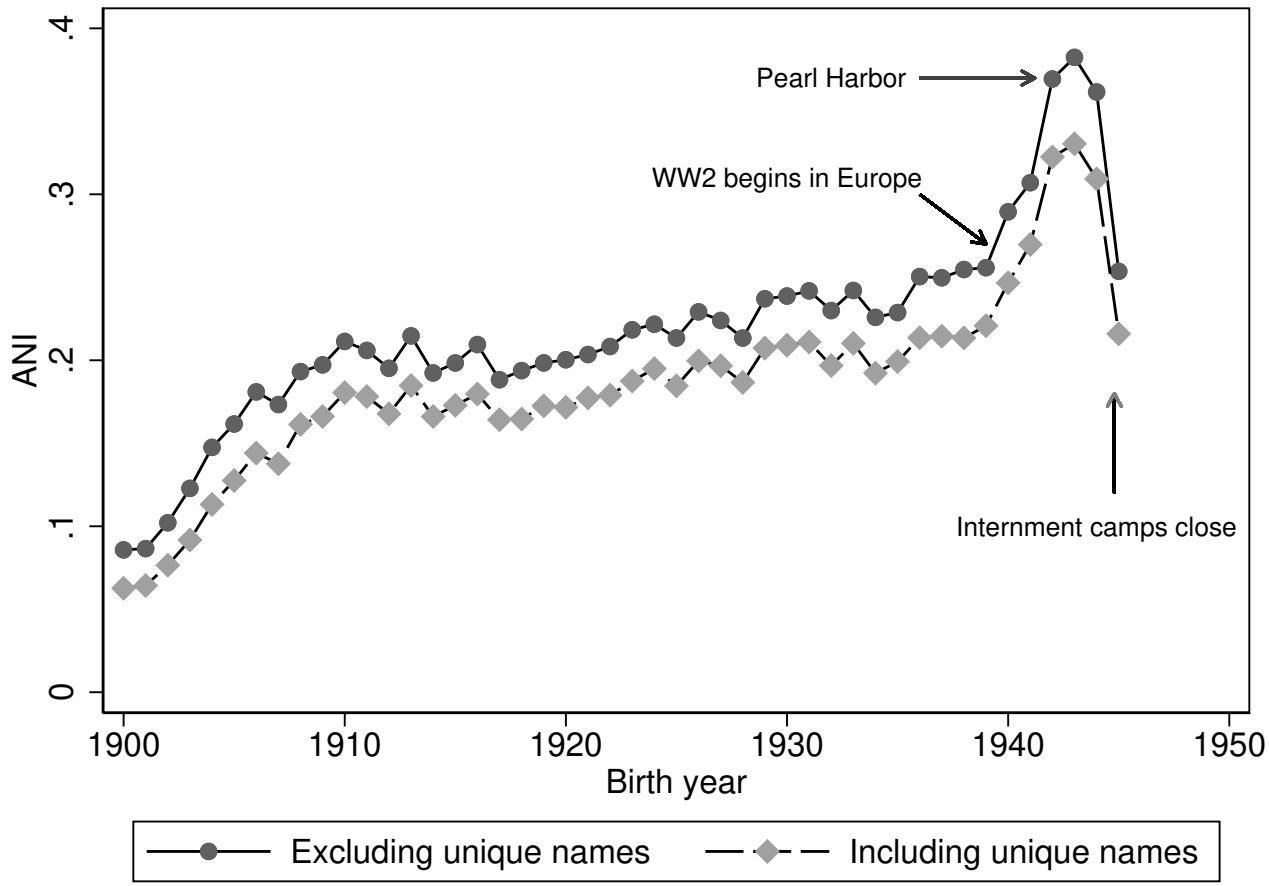
Italian

26. Major activity or status:

UNE OFFICE

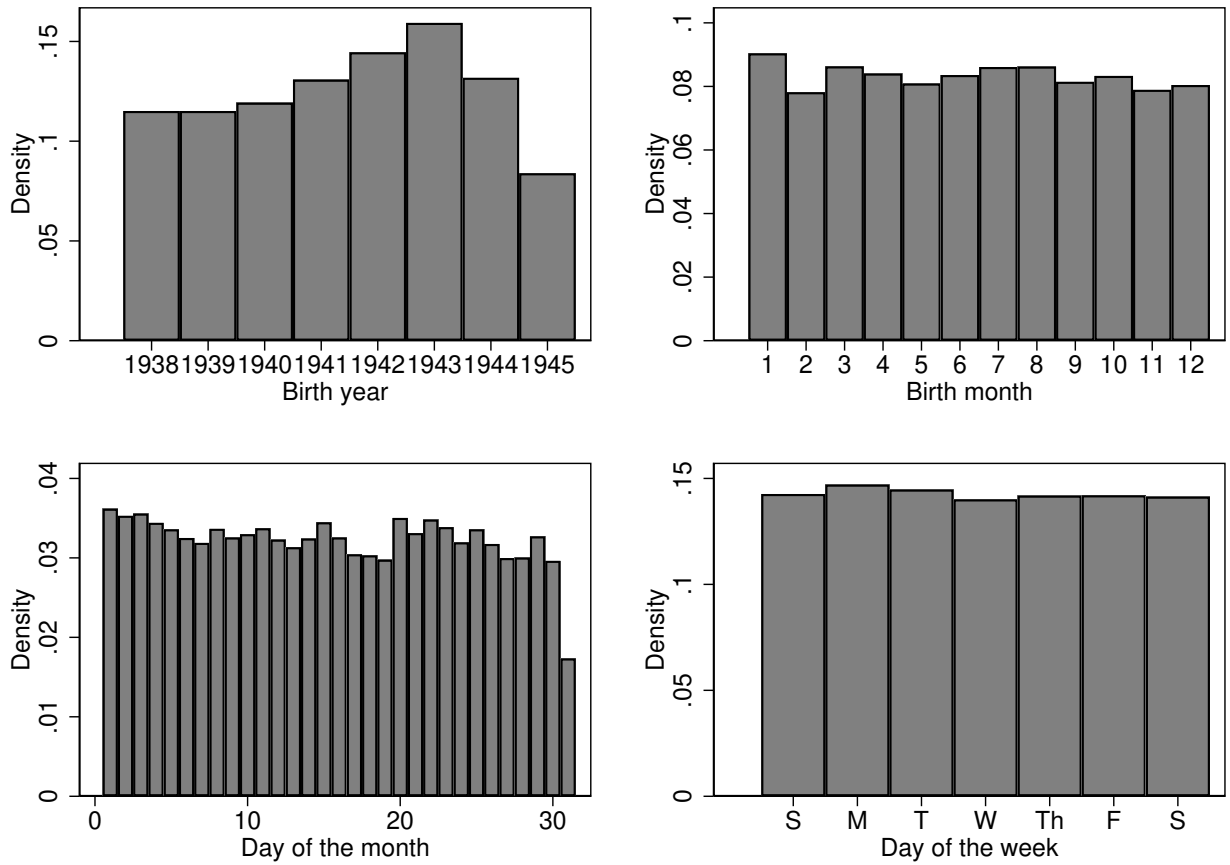
Data

Figure: Americanized Name Index by birth year for Japanese-American internees



Data

Figure: Distribution of birth year, month, day, and day of the week



Data

Table: Summary statistics

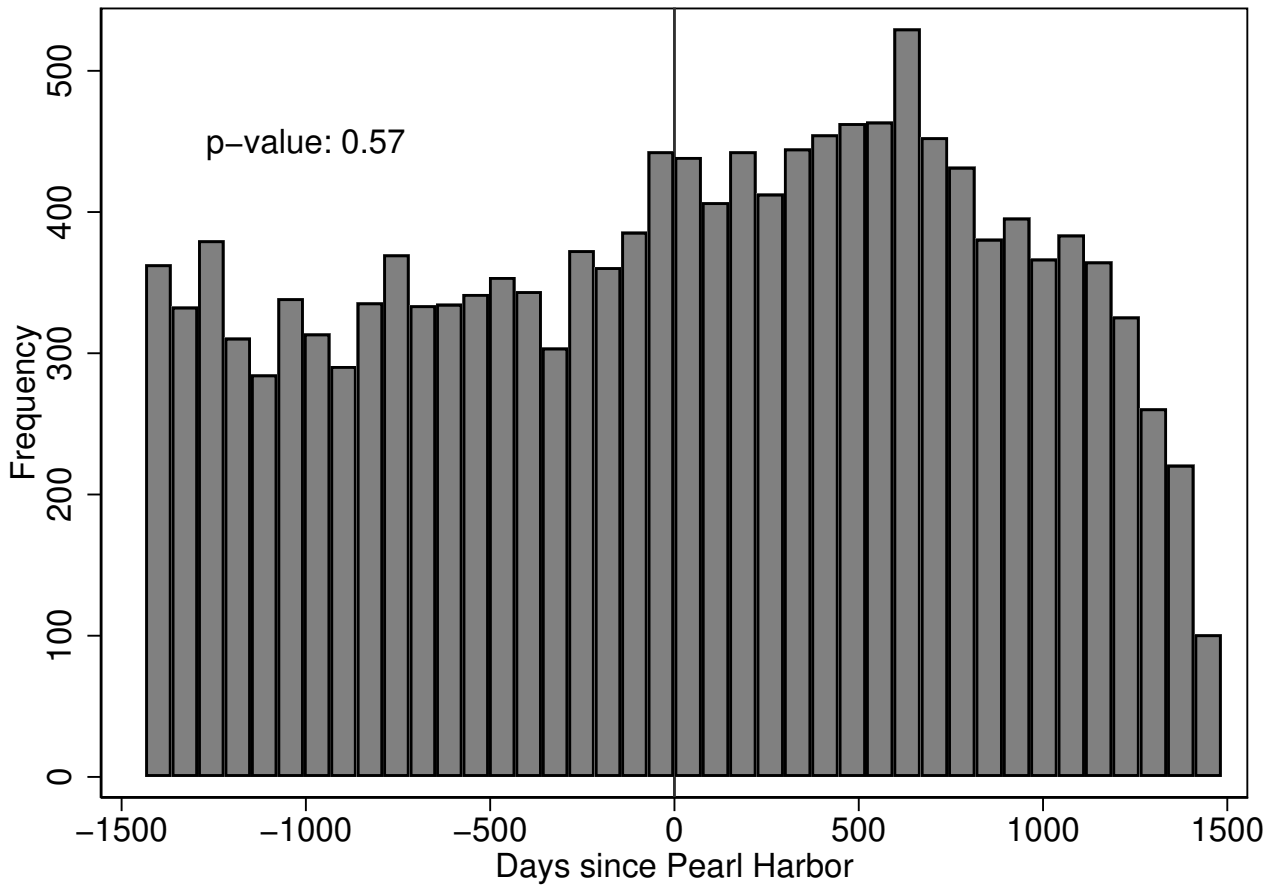
Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min.	Max.	*N*
Panel A: Excluding unique names					
ANI	0.316	0.438	0	1	12603
Birth date relative to Pearl Harbor	24.109	788.629	-1436	1485	12603
Male	0.496	0.5	0	1	12603
Siblings at birth	0.484	0.778	0	4	12548
Panel B: Including unique names					
ANI	0.272	0.421	0	1	14644
Birth date relative to Pearl Harbor	21.401	792.841	-1436	1485	14644
Male	0.515	0.5	0	1	14644
Siblings at birth	0.486	0.78	0	4	14573

Identification strategy

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{RD} &= E\left[\text{ANI}_i(1) - \text{ANI}_i(0) \middle| T_i = 0\right] \\ &= \lim_{t \downarrow 0} E\left[\text{ANI}_i \middle| T_i = t\right] - \lim_{t \uparrow 0} E\left[\text{ANI}_i \middle| T_i = t\right], \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

Identification strategy

Figure: Distribution of birth days around Pearl Harbor

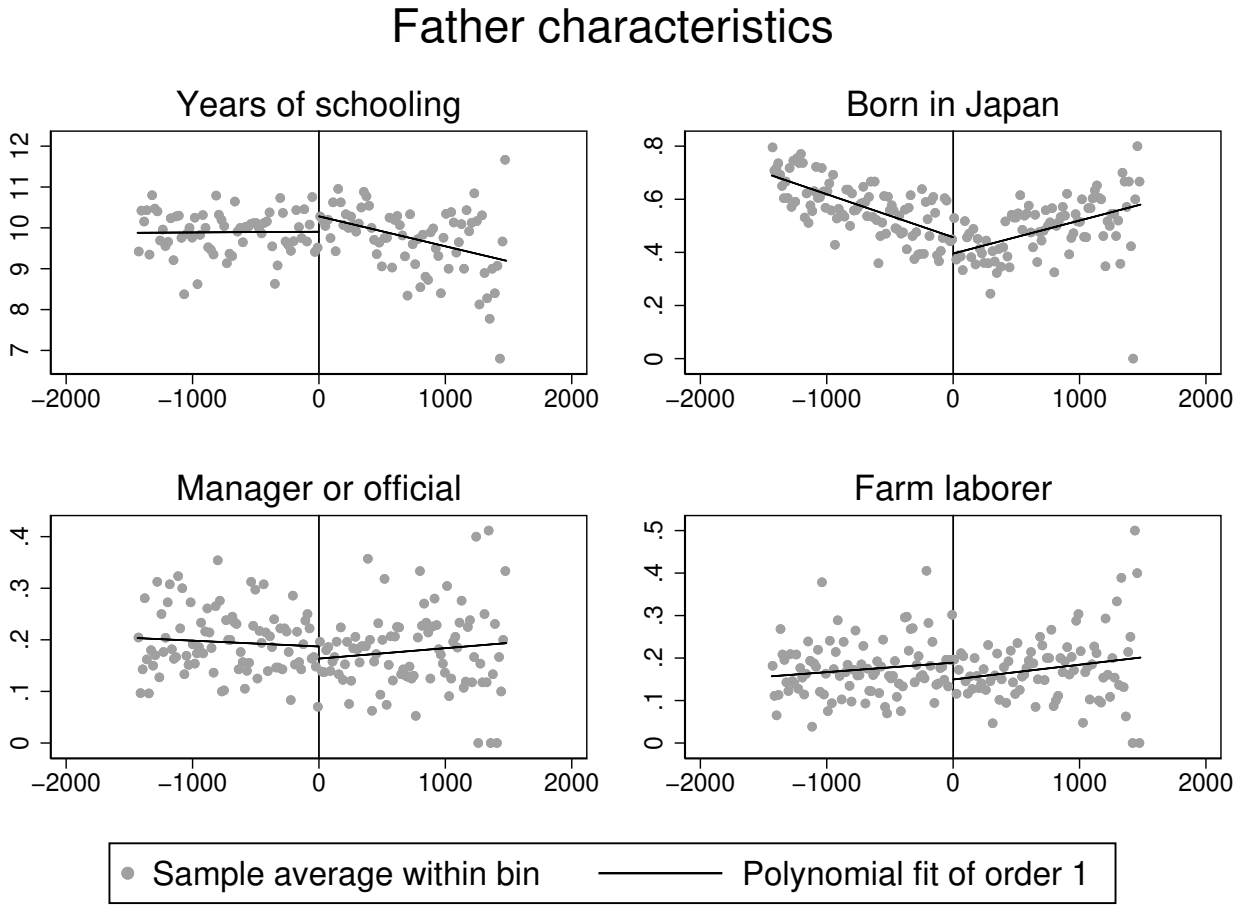


Identification strategy

Table: RD estimates of the effect of Pearl Harbor on placebo outcomes

	(1)	(2)
Dependent variable	Male	Number of siblings at birth
MSE-optimal treatment effect	0.0516	0.0199
	(0.0329)	(0.0425)
Robust bias-corrected	0.0596	0.0186
	(0.0380)	(0.0504)
N	14644	14573
N to left	6898	6894
N to right	7746	7679
Left bandwidth	286.5	541.7
Right bandwidth	550.0	375.1

Data


Father characteristics
Years of schooling
Born in Japan
Manager or official
Farm laborer
Sample average within bin
Polynomial fit of order 1

Data

Table: Estimates of discontinuities in father characteristics

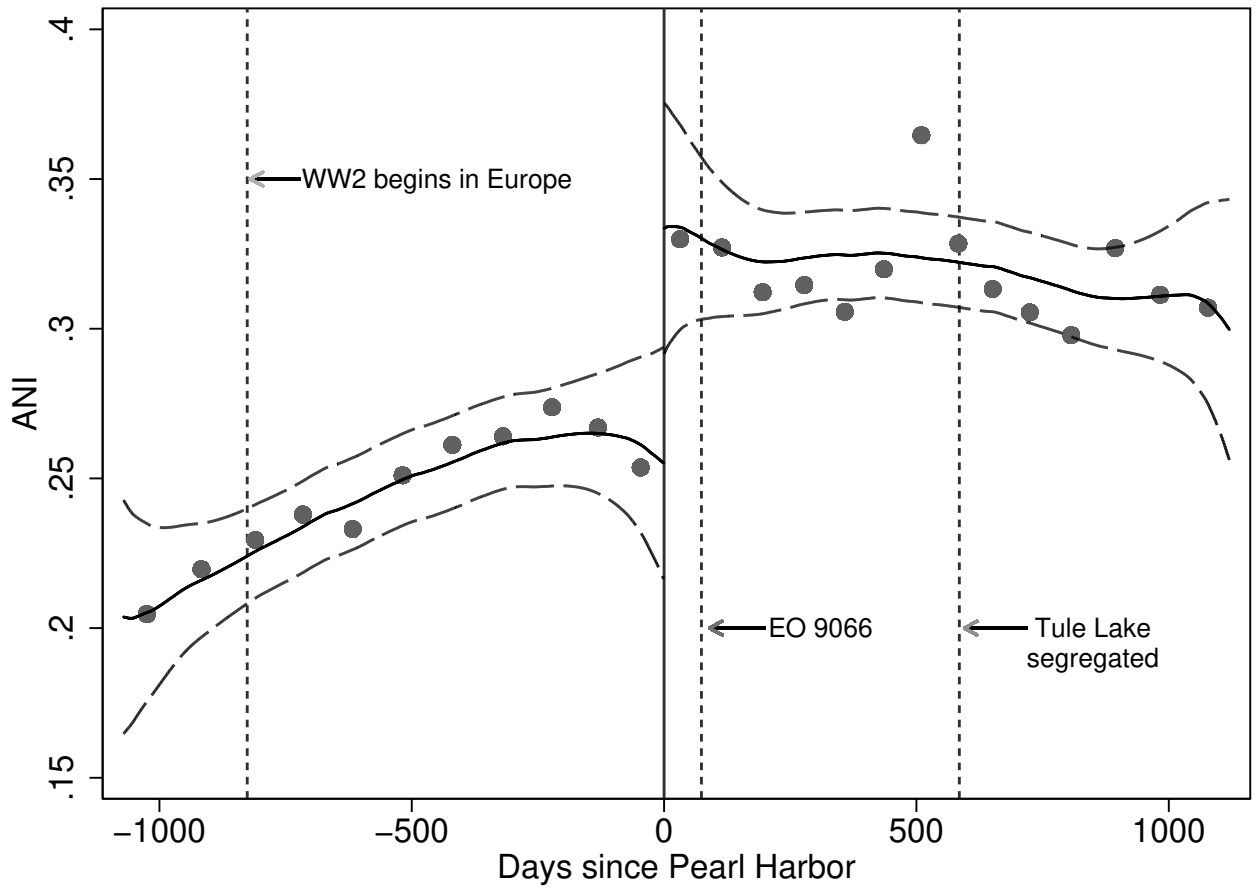
	(1) Manager	(2) Farm manager	(3) Farm laborer	(4) Schooling	(5) Born in Japan
MSE-optimal treatment effect	0.0165	0.0209	-0.0176	0.185	-0.0406
	(0.0311)	(0.0383)	(0.0338)	(0.351)	(0.0429)
Robust bias corrected	0.0219	0.0159	-0.00835	0.141	-0.0409
	(0.0362)	(0.0454)	(0.0405)	(0.422)	(0.0514)
N to the left	4063	4063	4063	3116	4063
N to the right	2886	2886	2886	2340	2886
Left bandwidth	319.6	417.9	411.7	569.1	594.2
Right bandwidth	540.9	499.3	430.0	347.2	325.3

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$

Results

Figure: Americanization of Japanese-American internee first names by birth date



Results

Table: RDD estimates of the effect of Pearl Harbor on name Americanization

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
MSE-optimal treatment effect	0.0797***	0.0822***	0.0692***	0.0731***
	(0.0275)	(0.0280)	(0.0248)	(0.0254)
Robust bias-corrected	0.0856***	0.0911***	0.0757**	0.0820***
	(0.0326)	(0.0330)	(0.0295)	(0.0300)
N	12603	12548	14644	14573
N to left	5922	5919	6898	6894
N to right	6681	6629	7746	7679
Left bandwidth	438.4	442.3	463.7	466.7
Right bandwidth	524.2	477.5	525.4	473.9
Unique names included	N	N	Y	Y
Controls	N	Y	N	Y

Results

Table: Results for linked sample controlling for father's characteristics

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
MSE-optimal treatment efffect	0.139***	0.110***	0.123***	0.0945**
	(0.0448)	(0.0418)	(0.0421)	(0.0391)
Robust bias corrected	0.143***	0.107**	0.130***	0.0941**
	(0.0537)	(0.0501)	(0.0505)	(0.0471)
N to the left	2728	3116	2728	3116
N to the right	2022	2340	2022	2340
Left bandwidth	486.7	551.8	496.1	561.5
Right bandwidth	395.4	354.7	426.1	396.9
Unique name included	N	Y	N	Y
Father controls	N	N	Y	Y

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < .1$, ** $p < .05$, *** $p < .01$

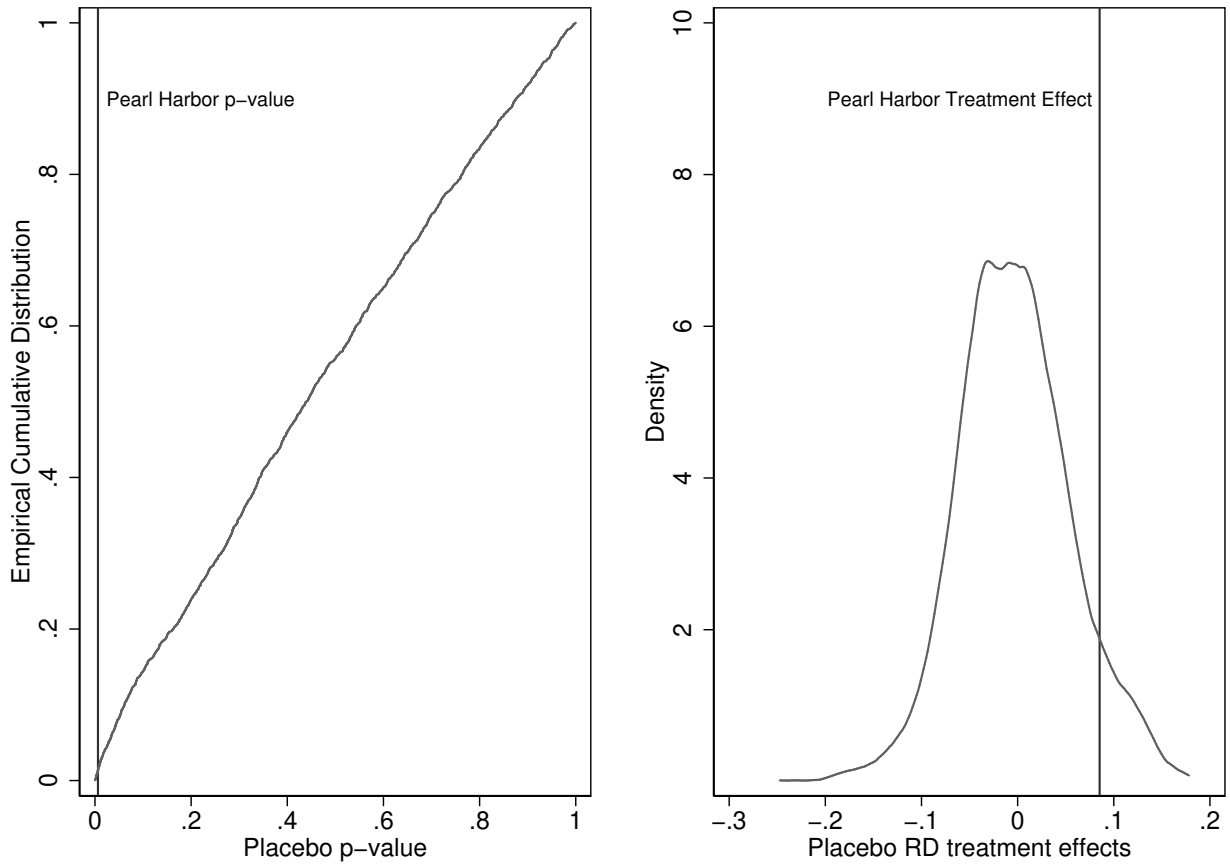
Robustness tests

Table: Robustness of the RD estimates

	Non-heaped data		Half optimal bw		Twice optimal bw	
MSE-optimal treatment effect	0.104***	0.0972***	0.0881**	0.0736**	0.0629***	0.0544***
	(0.0333)	(0.0308)	(0.0388)	(0.0351)	(0.0199)	(0.0180)
Robust bias-corrected	0.117***	0.111***	0.0701	0.0517	0.0764***	0.0665**
	(0.0389)	(0.0358)	(0.0560)	(0.0501)	(0.0289)	(0.0262)
N	9561	11141	12548	14573	12548	14573
N to left	4511	5273	5919	6894	5919	6894
N to right	5050	5868	6629	7679	6629	7679
Left bandwidth	326.4	328.0	221.6	233.4	886.2	933.5
Right bandwidth	504.6	476.1	238.8	237.0	955.4	947.8
Unique names included	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y

Robustness tests

Figure: Distribution of p-value and RD estimates using placebo cutoffs



Parametric RD

$$\text{ANI}_{ijt} = \alpha_j + \beta X_i + \gamma t + \delta t \times \mathbf{1}\left[t \geq 0\right] + \tau \mathbf{1}\left[t \geq 0\right] + \epsilon_i \qquad (2)$$

- ANI_{ijt} is the ANI of individual i, from family j, born in time t
- α_j is a family fixed effect
- X_i are individual controls (male, number of siblings at birth)
- τ is the treatment effect

Parametric RD

Treatment	0.0352*	0.0522	0.0421**	0.0608**
	(0.0212)	(0.0327)	(0.0174)	(0.0268)
N	6942	6942	8115	8115
Unique names included	N	N	Y	Y
Time trend	Linear	Quadratic	Linear	Quadratic
Additional controls	N	N	N	N
Treatment	0.0327	0.0455	0.0395**	0.0555**
	(0.0220)	(0.0333)	(0.0179)	(0.0272)
N	6942	6942	8115	8115
Unique names included	N	N	Y	Y
Time trend	Linear	Quadratic	Linear	Quadratic
Additional controls	Y	Y	Y	Y

Do names affect adult outcomes?

- Results suggest that Japanese Americans attempted to assimilate in response to Pearl Harbor
- This is a statement about the behavior of parents, not the children
- Did having a more Americanized name affect the assimilation of children?
- Cannot test directly, but can look for other discontinuities around Pearl Harbor in Census data

Do names affect adult outcomes?

Figure: Intermarriage and education rates by birth year in 1970-2017 Census/ACS data

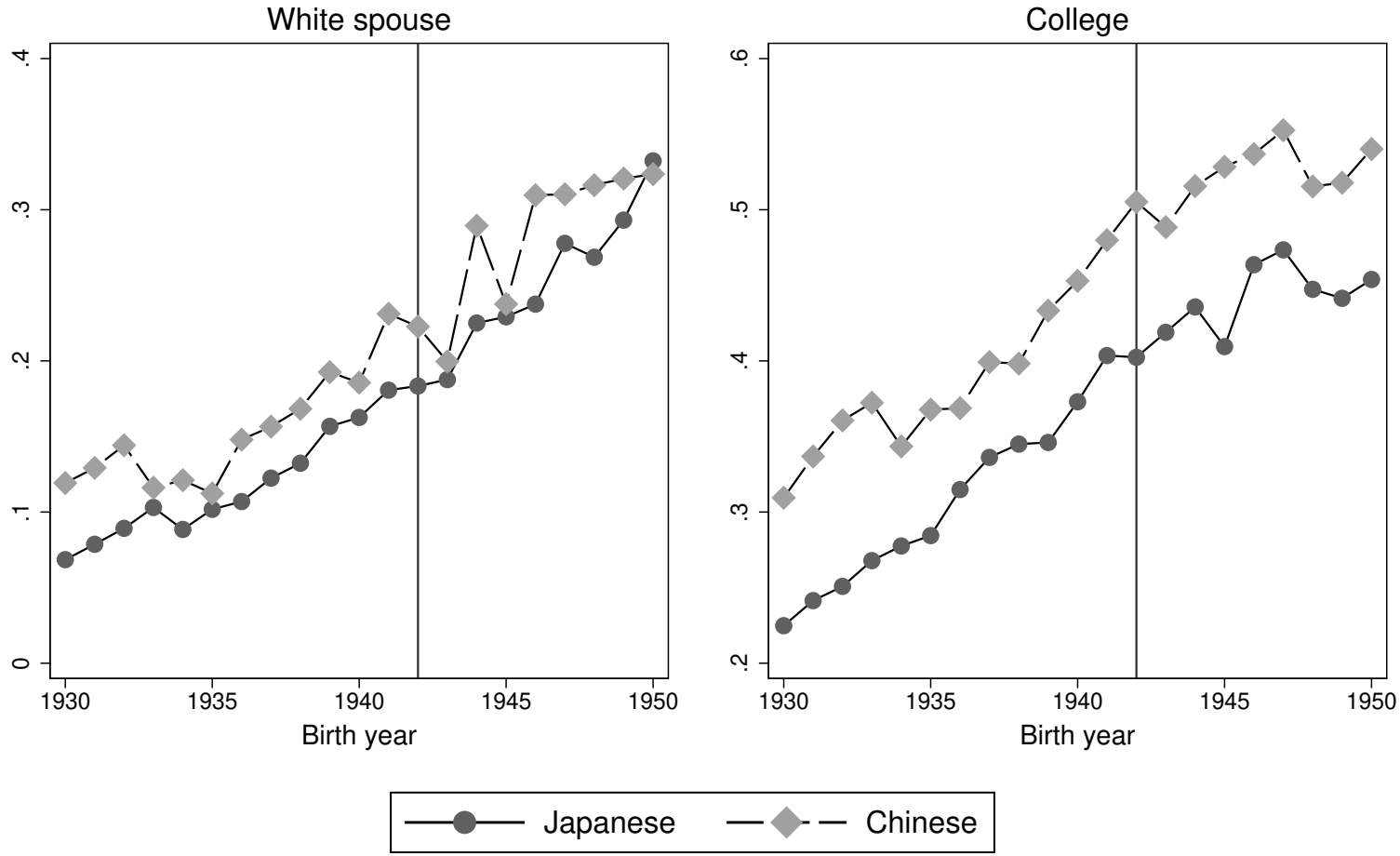
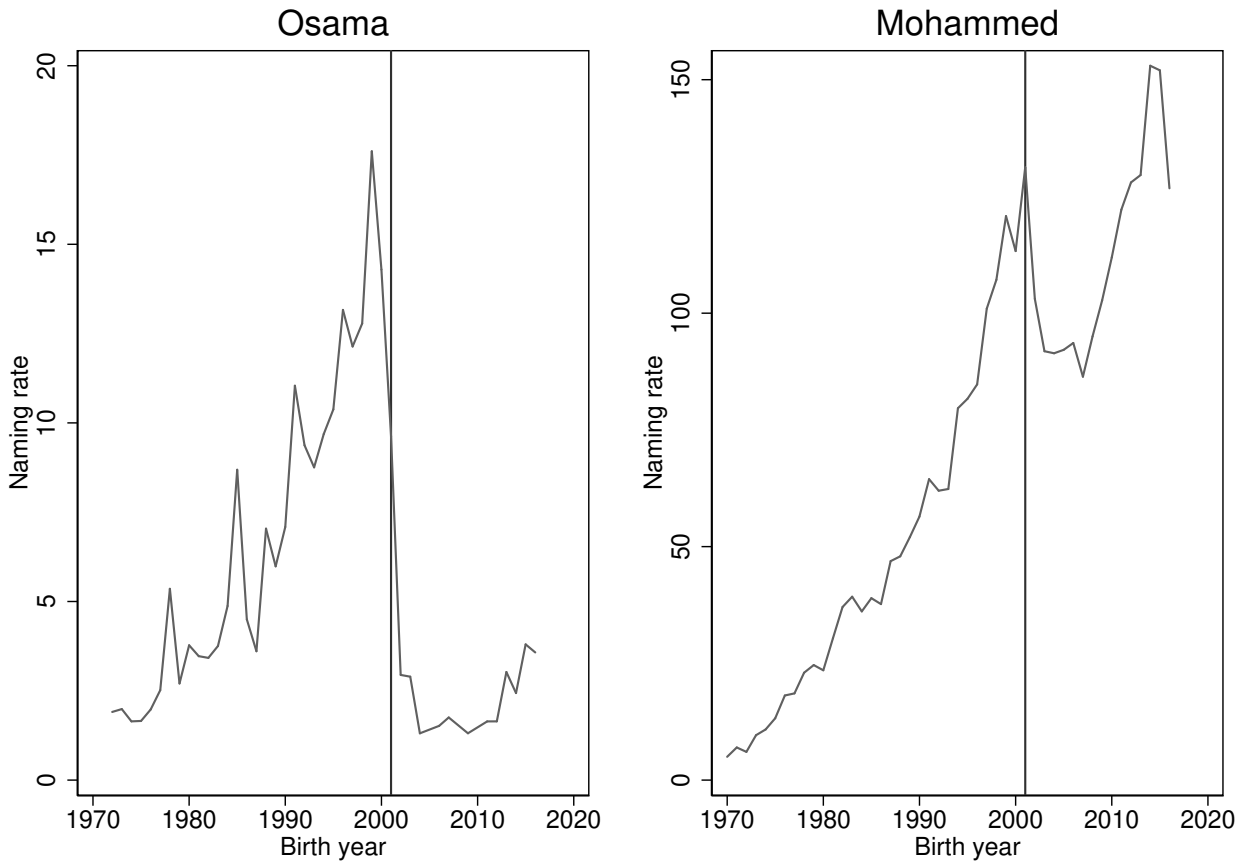


Figure:


Osama
Naming rate
0
5
10
15
20
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
Birth year
Mohammed
Naming rate
0
50
100
150
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
Birth year

Conclusion

- Japanese Americans gave their children more Americanized names in the days after Pearl Harbor
- Suggests that Japanese Americans attempts to assimilate in response to increase in anti-Japanese sentiment