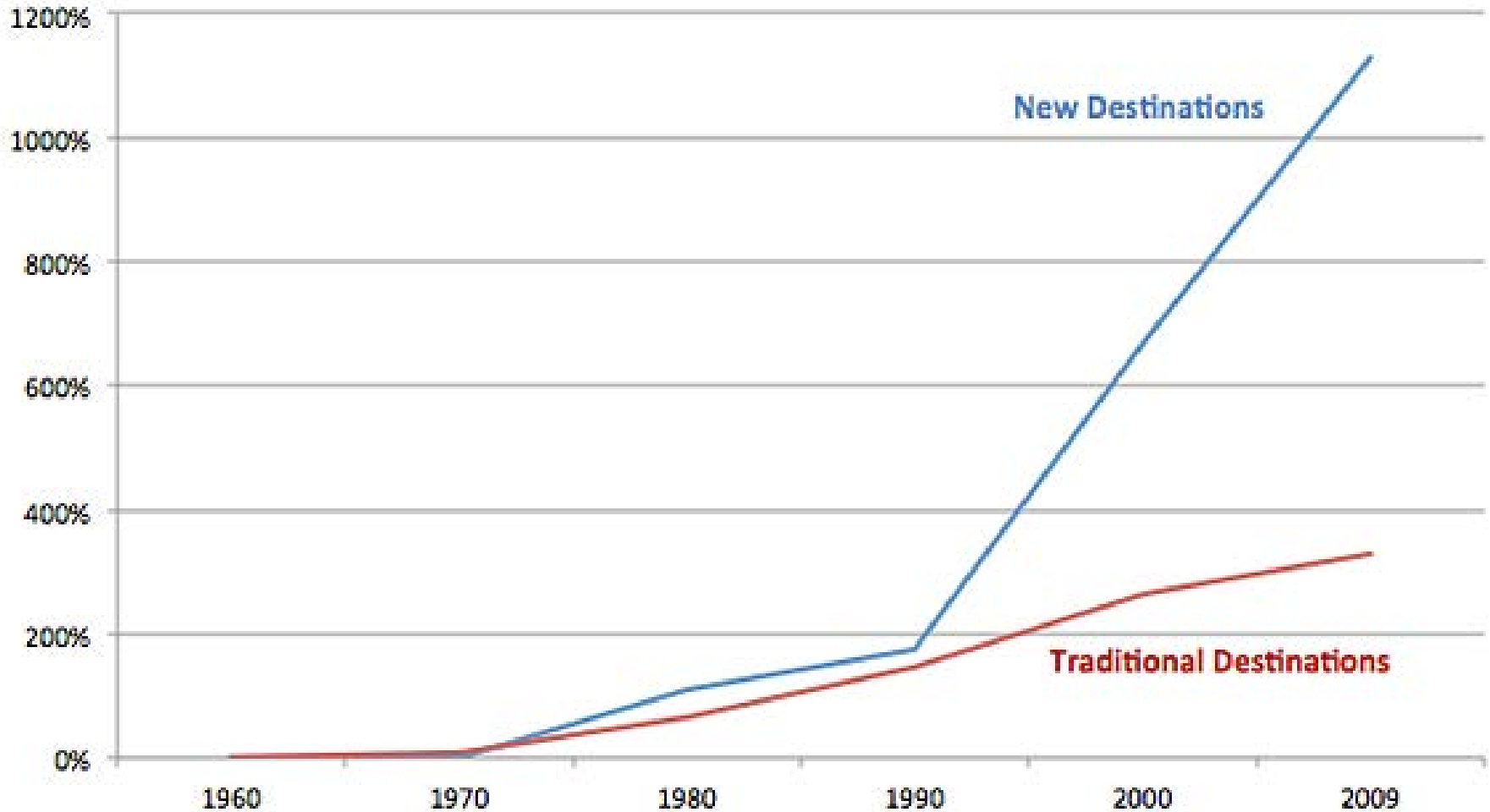


Immigration Advocacy and Racial Formation in New Immigrant Destinations



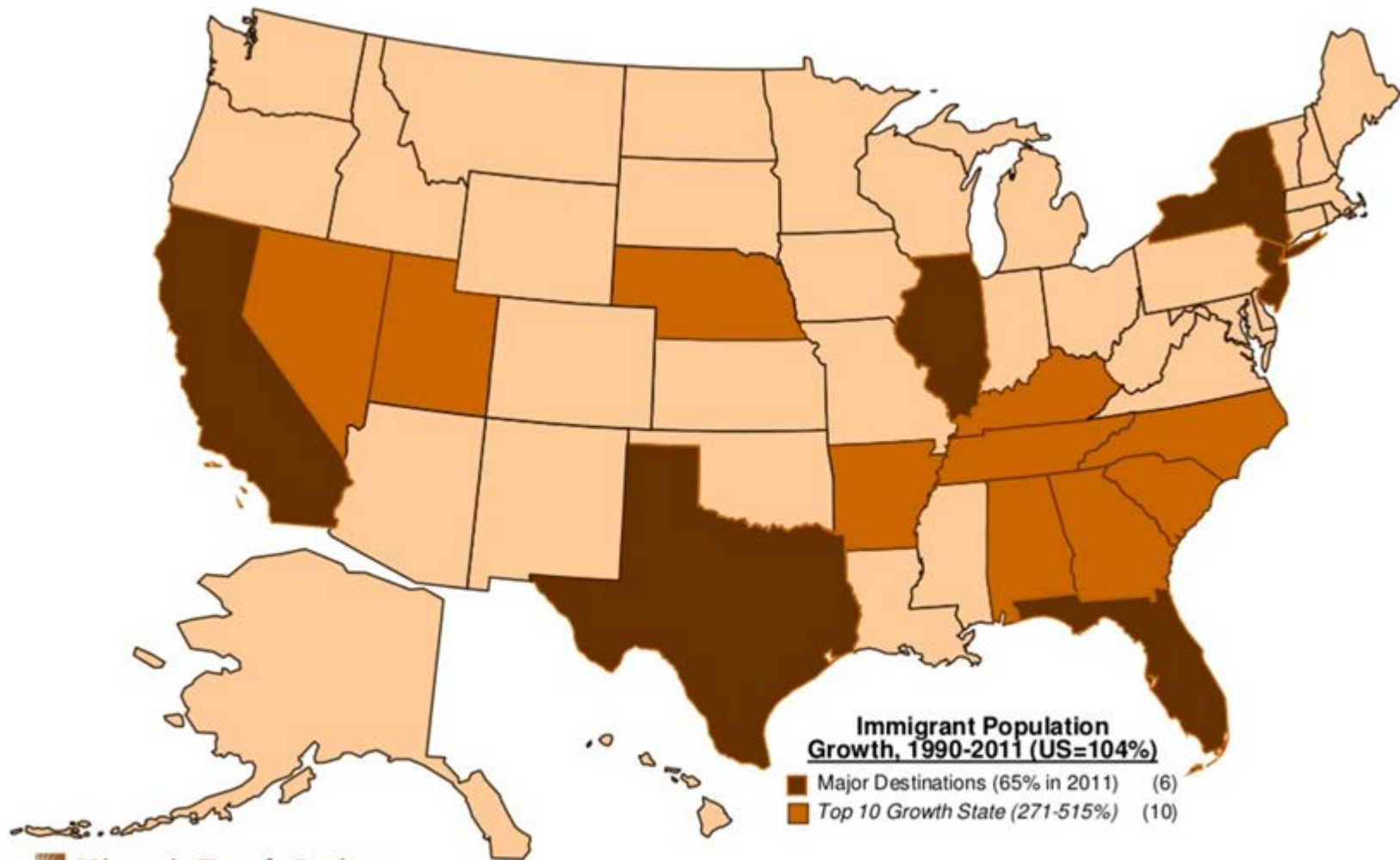
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New Destination Migration



Sources: Migration Policy Institute. 2009 data from the 2009 American Community Survey; 2000 data from the 2000 Census; 1960 to 1990 data from Campbell J. Gibson and Emily Lennon, "Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-born Population of the United States: 1850-1990," (U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Working Paper No. 29, February 1999).

Fastest Growing Foreign-Born Populations



Existing Research on Racial Dynamics in New Destinations



- ∞ Racialization, hierarchies & intergroup relations
 - ∞ Public policies & institutions (e.g. Jones, Massey)
 - ∞ Communities & workplaces (e.g. Marrow, Ribas)

- ∞ Social movements & advocacy organizations?
 - ∞ How do social movements affect racial formation?

Research Questions



- ❧ What effects do immigrant rights movements have on perceptions of Black-Latino relations?
 - ❧ Case Study: Mississippi, 2000-present
 - ❧ Findings: Movement has produced interracialism
 - ❧ “An affirmative transformation of race that, discursively and practically, deals with and rearticulates extant racial boundaries” (Jung 2003)

Data and Methods



- ❧ Media content analysis (1059 MS news stories)
 - ❧ Jackson Clarion-Ledger (2003-2013)
 - ❧ Biloxi Sun Herald (2003-2013)
 - ❧ Jackson Advocate (2009-2013)

- ❧ Analysis of organizational & government documents (on-going)
 - ❧ Newsletters
 - ❧ Internal files

- ❧ In-depth interviews (on-going)

- ❧ Comparative data from Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina

Mississippi's New Immigrant Arrivals



-
- ∞ 548% Latino population growth since 1990
 - ∞ Racial inequality high
 - ∞ 48% child poverty rate for Latinos, 15% for whites
 - ∞ Political backlash
 - ∞ 283 anti-immigrant bills introduced since 2005
 - ∞ Vibrant pro-immigrant movement



iMIRA
MISSISSIPPI IMMIGRANT
RIGHTS ALLIANCE

GO Home
US All
... UNIVERSITY

WE THE
PEOPLE

I need to
...
...

Framing & Public Discourse



- ∞ Initial movement & public discourse emphasized:
 - ∞ Xenophobia
 - ∞ Legal status, work, taxes
 - ∞ Comparisons to previous generations of immigrants

- ∞ Shift to interracialism: movement then mainstream

Framing Immigration: Racism



“Our experiences with hundreds of [Latino] immigrants have revealed the countless ways in which they are marginalized and dehumanized. They have been... discriminated against in the workplace... They are constantly racially profiled by bigoted law enforcement authorities.” (MIRA 2010)

Framing Immigration: Reference Groups & Civil Rights



- ❧ “[Using the term ‘illegal immigrant’ is] the same thing as using the N-word to destroy the humanity of African-Americans.” (MIRA Leader)
- ❧ “There appears to be xenophobia in Mississippi, the likes of which we have not seen since the civil rights era of the 1960s... [Immigration] critics argue that undocumented immigrants have "broken the law." They also said that Rosa Parks broke the law when she refused to move to the back of the bus. I say that some laws are unjust.” (Patricia Ice)

Diffusion of Interracialism



- œ “Immigrants are being exploited in the same way black Americans were during the civil rights movement. They have the same problems we had in the 1960s [such as] finding jobs, living wages and places to live...” (Eddie R. Smith)
- œ Any legislation that discriminates against Latinos, discriminates against African-Americans.” (Derrick Johnson)

Interracialism in Media Discourse



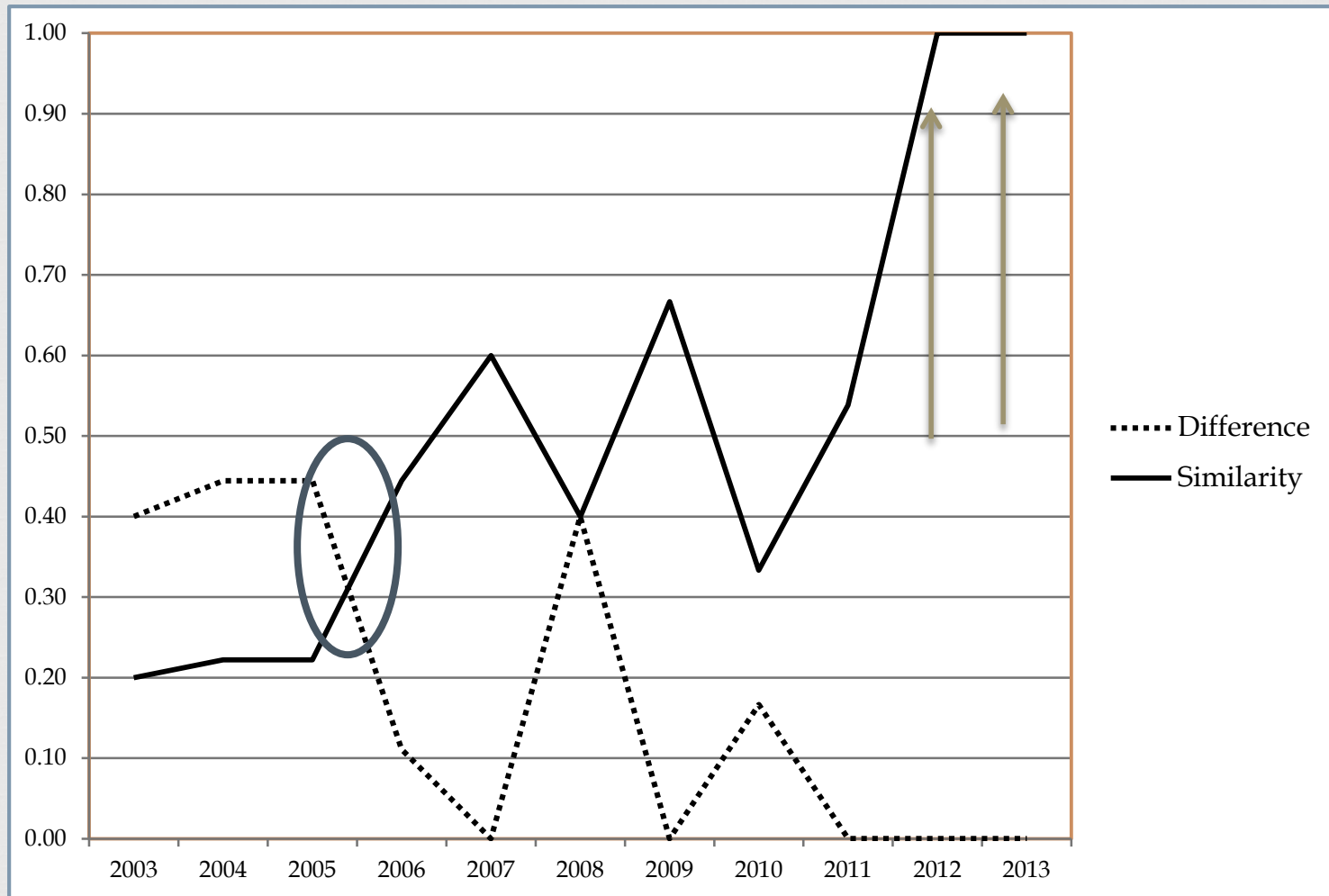
∞ Difference/conflict

∞ “Most of those jobs are held by Hispanics... black workers are being squeezed out of the job market in the process.”

∞ Similarity/linked fate

∞ “Hispanics are now being treated the same as African Americans.”

Interracialism in Media Discourse



Immigrant Advocacy & Racial Formation



- ❧ Interracialism as effect of Mississippi immigrant rights movement
 - ❧ Shifts at cultural and political elite level
 - ❧ Suggestive evidence from community-level work

- ❧ Movements as central players in racial formation, reception and racialization of new immigrants

- ❧ Affirmational element of racialization
 - ❧ Potential basis for coalition building

- ❧ On-going work
 - ❧ Effects of movements dependent upon structural and relational characteristics of activist networks
 - ❧ Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina

Thank You



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