

## ABSTRACT

Current scholarship on migration and civic culture largely ignores how immigrants influence their children's civic development. Yet, civic self-concepts expressed by the children of immigrants can ground debates over how immigration affects the transfer and transformation of civic culture. This raises the question: To what extent, and in what ways, do the experiences, attitudes, and parenting practices of immigrants influence their adult children's understandings of self as civic actors in the U.S. and in the parent's birthplace? My research is based on interviews with Salvadoran-Americans who grew up primarily in the U.S. and their parents who came to Washington D.C. during the Salvadoran Civil War. The young adults in my study expressed attitudes and goals that tell about self-understandings relevant to civic responsibility: empathy with newcomers and with the less socially privileged, motivation to push oneself for personal growth, desire to "give back" in gratitude for what they and their parents now have, commitment to a strong and supportive family, and a desire for less silence on political issues. Interviews show that parenting and parents' experiences of immigration from El Salvador did influence these civic self-understandings, primarily by influencing their identification with communities, nations, ethnic groups and political systems.

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