As the United States continues to record a growing population of immigrants, our research seeks to review how immigrants are portrayed in the mass media in different areas of the country over time. This helps to illuminate what Americans and immigrants feel about immigration across different contexts. Eighteen regional and six national papers—including the USA Today, the New York Times, and the Wall Street Journal—were analyzed from the years 1985 through 2012. From a specific newspaper and a given year, articles that contained sufficient information about immigration were surveyed through a content analysis procedure. These articles were chosen based on several criteria: 1) at least two-thirds of the article is about immigration; 2) the article is about immigration to the US only; 3) the article is about immigration in the present. These articles were then coded in relation to various topics such as the tone of the article—that is, whether the article mentions immigrants as having positive or negative consequences for the US, as well as whether immigrants benefit from immigration to the US. Preliminary findings from my review of articles from our set of newspapers suggests the tone of the articles as they relate to the consequences of immigration for immigrants tend to be more positive than negative, and the tone as it relates to the consequences of immigration for the US tends to be more negative than positive. Additionally, most articles have expressed the greatest concern for illegal immigration and its consequences for the US.
Images of an Immigrant Nation: Portrayals of Immigrants in the Mass Media
Prof. Brader, Prof Jardina, Prof. Yadon, Taiwo Adeniyi

Abstract
As the United States continues to record a growing population of immigrants, our research seeks to review how immigrants are portrayed in the mass media in different areas of the country over time. This helps to illuminate what Americans and immigrants feel about immigration across different contexts. Eighteen regional and six national papers—including the USA Today, the New York Times, and the Wall Street Journal—were analyzed from the years 1985 through 2012. From a specific newspaper and a given year, articles that contained sufficient information about immigration were surveyed through a content analysis procedure. These articles were chosen based on several criteria: 1) at least two-thirds of the article is about immigration; 2) the article is about immigration to the US only; 3) the article is about immigration in the present. These articles were then coded in relation to various topics such as the tone of the article—that is, whether the article mentions immigrants as having positive or negative consequences for the US, as well as whether immigrants benefit from immigration to the US. Preliminary findings from my review of articles from our set of newspapers suggests the tone of the articles as they relate to the consequences of immigration for immigrants tend to be more positive than negative, and the tone as they relate to the consequences of immigration for the US tends to be more negative than positive. Additionally, most articles have expressed the greatest concern for illegal immigration and its consequences for the US.

Objectives
The aim of our research is to learn how media coverage of immigration has changed over time and in different areas of the US.

Methods
Our research focused on 18 regional and 6 national newspapers using the databases ProQuest and newbank at the Mlibrary as our source. From a specific newspaper and a given year, we searched for the word immigrat* to find what articles mention immigration/immigrants/immigrate. From the list of articles found, a random number list was created, and this list was used to determine the order at which articles are reviewed. Going through the random number list, articles that contained sufficient information about immigration were downloaded and then coded. While coding, series of questions were asked and answered about these articles. The questions ranged from whether the article mentions immigrants as contributing to public revenue, affecting the growth of the economy or affecting the US political process, to whether the article mentions immigrants as having positive or negative consequences for the US. Subsequently, media coverage of immigration is connected to public opinion polls over time and across regions.

Findings
In my review of these sets of newspaper articles, I found that articles show the most concern for illegal immigration. Also, Latinos, among others, are the most discussed immigrant groups, which could be because they constitute the largest immigrant population in the US. Similarly, political parties target immigrant groups especially Latinos while deciding political strategies during the elections. More importantly, the articles suggest a more positive than negative tone in relation to the consequences of immigration for immigrants, and a more negative than positive tone as it relates to the consequences of immigration for the US.