

# Aliens or Allies: Images of Immigrants in Contemporary American Cultural Texts

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## Thesis Statement

- A survey of cultural texts indicates ambivalence and hostility toward both legal and illegal immigrants within and among industry labor organizations, government bodies, and the popular media.

## Key Concepts

- Hostile
- Supportive
- Ambivalent

## Methods

- Grounded Theory
- Purposive Sampling
- In Vivo Coding
- Exemplar Quotes
  
- Methodology is based on Bernard (2002)

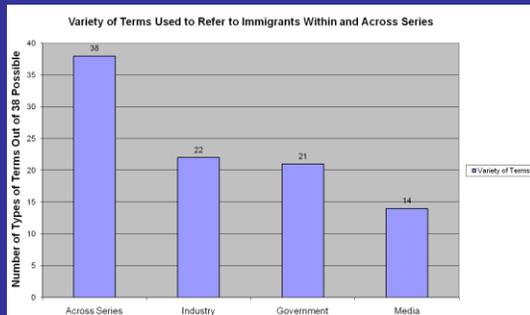
## Purposive Sampling

- Sources selected from three prominent voices in the immigration and labor debate for comparative analysis
  
- Media
- Government
- Industry Labor Organizations

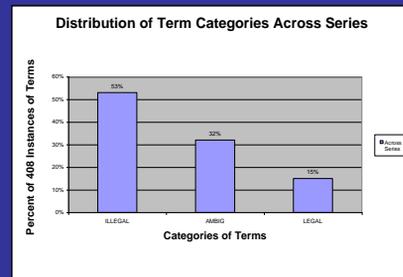
## Data Analysis

- Quantitative
- Create Codebook
- Create Data Matrix
  
- Qualitative
- Select exemplar quotes to illustrate how terms may change according to context

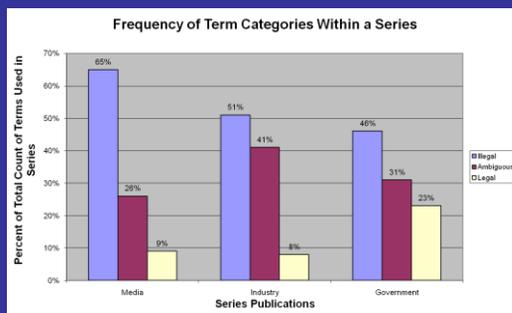
## Quantitative Results



## Quantitative Results



## Quantitative Results



## Qualitative Exemplars from Industry Publications

- “Since it is against the law for businesses to hire **illegal aliens**, what is the possible rationale for providing them state-subsidized educations in our public universities?”
- “He is one of those hard-working, taxpaying **immigrants** whom both unionists and immigrants’ rights advocates extol and defend.”

## Qualitative Exemplars from Government Publications

- “The increasing number of **noncitizens** highlights the challenge of dealing with **immigrants** in the criminal justice system.”

## Qualitative Exemplars from Government Publications

- “For years, limited detention space forced the release of many **illegal border crossers** from nations other than Mexico with nothing more than a Notice to Appear for a hearing before an immigration judge.”

## Qualitative Exemplars from Government Publications

- “An investment in tools to help new Americans learn English will be repaid many times over in the contributions these immigrants make to our political discourse, economy, and society.”

## Qualitative Exemplars from Media Publications

- “Sen. Hillary Clinton on Wednesday came out against granting driver’s licenses to illegal immigrants...”
- “The Democratic governor introduced the plan two months ago with the goal of increased security, safer roads, and an opportunity to bring immigrants ‘out of the shadows’.”

## Further Research

- Would my results be repeated with a larger, more stringently selected sample?
- What is the influence of the Department of Homeland Security on the immigration debate?
- Why do some labor organizations adopt and lobby for strict anti-immigrant policies when grass-roots, inclusive policies are proven effective?
- How influential is mass media on government and labor organizing policies?

## Conclusion

- Better understanding of the complexity of the issue
- More familiarity with lobbying process and the connection between media, government and industry
- Experience in data collection and analysis
- Many lessons in time management and organization