

The Link between the Motivation to Justify the Status Quo and Reception to Newcomers to Canada: An Empirical Snapshot of Current Attitudes towards Immigrants

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Introduction

Although Canadians' attitudes towards immigration are generally positive, newcomers still face stereotyping and discrimination.

The Stereotype Content Model (Fiske, Cuddy, & Glick, & Xu, 2001) and System Justification Theory (Jost & Banaji, 1994) predict that stereotypes arise not just from prejudice but from psychological motives.

Namely, stereotypes often have *mixed content*, with groups viewed as high competence but low warmth and vice versa. Stereotypes can also increase *system confidence* by rationalizing the status quo.

We examined stereotypes of four immigrant classes in the Canadian context.

Research Questions:

1. Do stereotypes of immigrants in Canada differ by migrant class?
2. Are they *mixed content* stereotypes?
3. What psychological function(s) do they serve?

Method

Surveyed 307 Canadian citizens representative based on population's age, gender, and region using Qualtrics Panels.

Immigrant groups: economic; temporary foreign workers; refugees; illegal

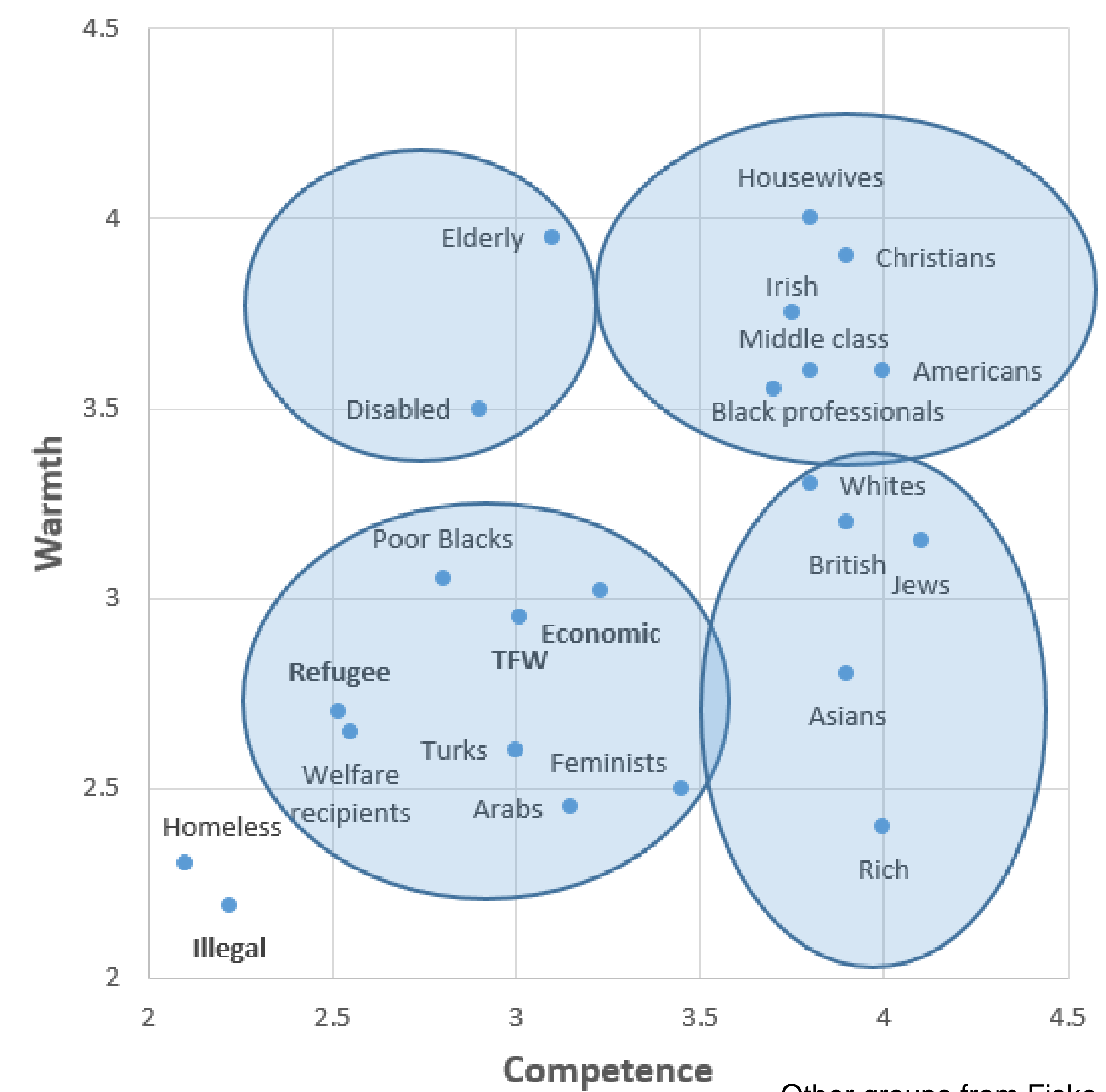
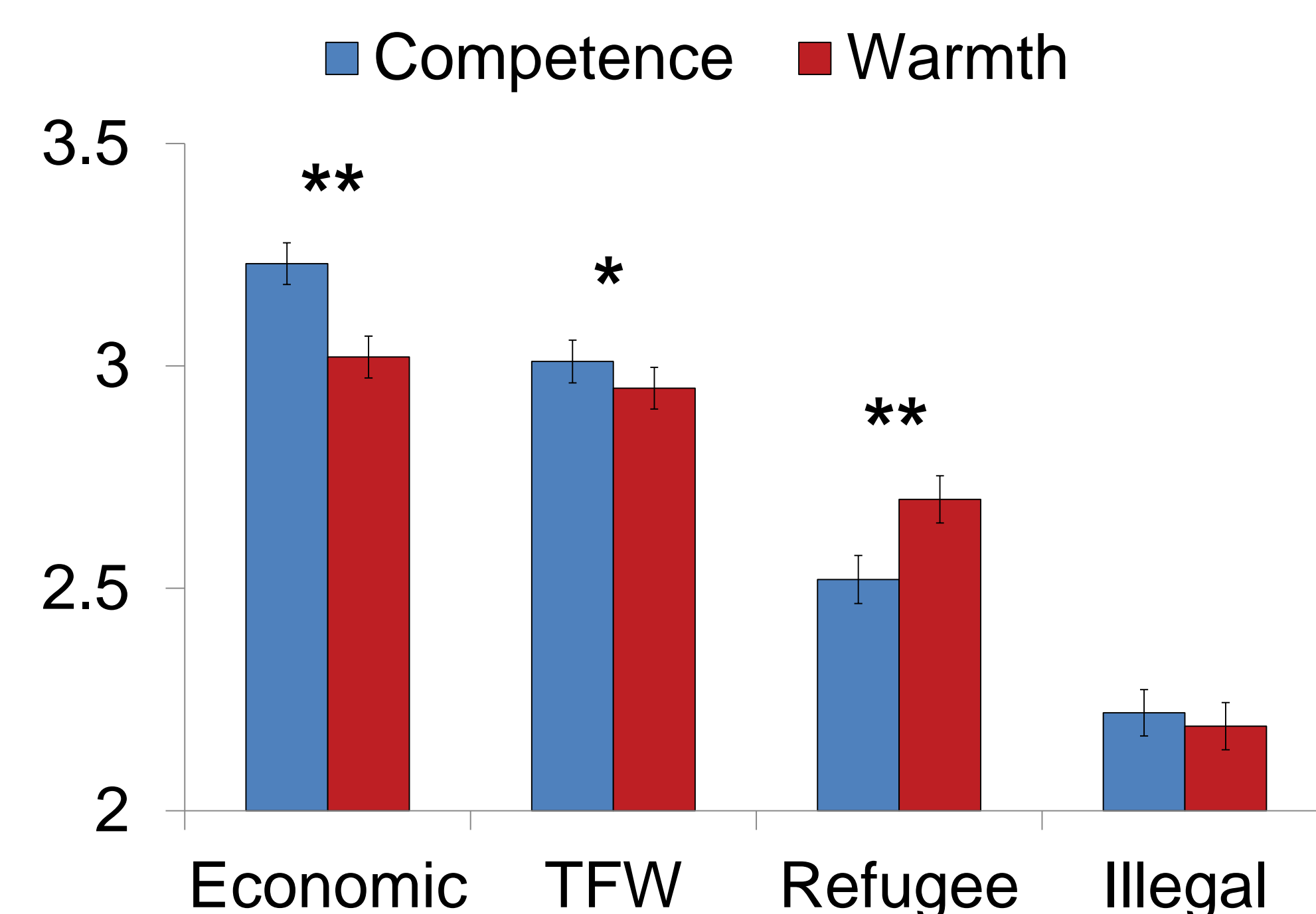
Stereotypes: warmth (friendly, sincere), competence (capable, skillful)

Intergroup Perceptions: status, competition, social acceptance

Individual Beliefs:

- System Confidence
- Social Dominance Orientation

Results



Conclusions

Stereotypes of economic and TFW migrants more positive. Mixed stereotype content within classes.

Perceived status produces high competence and high warmth; competition produces low warmth and less social acceptance.

Positive stereotypes, not mixed, associated with system confidence.

SDO produced negativity and less social acceptance.

Compared to previous findings on ethnic stereotyping, in Canada immigrants' perceived status may drive more warmth, and mixed stereotype content less related to system confidence.

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	Competence	Warmth	Social Acceptance
Status	.64**	.55**	.05
Competition	-.10†	-.17*	-.43**

	Competence	Warmth	Status	Competition	Social Accept.
System Conf.	.25**	.25**	.14*	-.19**	-.03
SDO	-.16**	-.19**	.03	.29**	-.70**