

Patterns of Intermarriages and Cross-Generational In-marriages Among Post-1965 Native-Born Asian Americans

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1. Problems of Previous Studies

- included all native-born married Asian Americans;
- focused on native-born Asian groups' overall interethnic marriage rates without looking at interethnic linkages among particular Asian groups;
- did not pay attention to patterns of cross-generational in-marriages.

2. Main Objectives of This Article

- To show rates and patterns of contemporary native-born Asian Americans' intermarriages and in-marriages;
- To show three different types of cross-generation in-marriages;
- To show Asian-Asian interethnic marriage linkages.

3. Data Sources & Methods

- A Combined ACS Sample of 2001-2006 from IPUMS.
- Post-1965 Native-Born Married Single-Race Asian Americans 18 Years old and over.
- Cross-Tabulation Tables Showing Intermarriage and In-marriage Rates by Ethnic Group and Gender.
- A Figure Showing Multiple Pan-Asian Ethnic Boundaries.

American Community Survey

4. Findings about Intermarriages

Table 1: Patterns of Intermarriages among Post-1965 Native-Born Asian Americans by Ethnic Group, 2001-2006

	Race of Spouse among the Intermarried			
	Exogamy	Asian Interethnic	White Interracial	Other Interracial ^{b)}
Total Asian	55.1	9.2	35.0	10.9
Chinese	56.4	16.0	34.9	5.5
Filipino	62.5	5.6	39.1	17.8
Indian	32.1	2.2	24.0	5.9
Japanese	69.3	15.0	40.8	13.4
Korean	54.0	8.2	39.8	5.9
Vietnamese	39.6	5.7	22.5	11.5

- The Total Asian Americans' **intermarriage** rate is very high with 55%.
- The **Asian-Asian interethnic marriage** rate is very low with only 9%.
- The **Asian-White intermarriage** rate is high with 35%.
 - suggesting that the Asian-White racial boundary has been greatly reduced.

- As expected, native-born **Japanese** Americans' intermarriage rate is exceptionally high with 69%, much higher than previous studies showed (about 40%).
- **Filipinos** show the second highest intermarriage rate with 63%.

- **Indians** show the lowest intermarriage rate with 32%, a much lower rate than previous studies indicated.
- As expected, **Koreans** show a much lower intermarriage rate with 54% than previous studies indicated.

5. Finding about In-Marriages

Table 2: Patterns of In-marriages among Post-1965 Native-Born Asian Americans by Ethnic Group, 2001-2006

	Generation of Spouse among the In-married			
	Total Endogamy	Native-Born	1.5 Generation	First Generation
Total Asian	44.9	22.2	9.8	12.9
Chinese	43.6	23.3	11.2	9.1
Filipino	37.5	17.0	9.2	11.3
Indian	67.9	24.8	13.1	30.0
Japanese	30.7	24.6	1.8	4.3
Korean	46.0	22.4	11.4	12.3
Vietnamese	60.4	35.4	11.2	13.8

- Slightly more than 50% of **in-married** Asian Americans are married to 1.5- or 1st generation spouses.
- Since some of native-native in-marriages involve **cross-generational marriages**, the majority of native-born Asian Americans engage in cross-generational in-marriages.

- What factors have contributed to a high **cross-generational marriage**?
 - transnational ties;
 - cultural similarities between native- and foreign-born Asians among youth;
 - immigrant parents' preference for immigrant in-laws (arranged marriages);
 - immigrant partners' choice of native-born partners for practical purposes.

- Naturally, Asian groups with very **high intermarriage** rates have **lower cross-generational marriage** rates (Japanese and Filipino).

- **Indians** with the lowest intermarriage rate have the highest cross-generational marriage rate with 43%, with 30% to first generation immigrants.
- For **Filipinos** and **Koreans**, women show much higher rates of cross-generational marriage to immigrants (18% to 7% for Koreans, 15% to 8% for Filipinos).

6. Concluding Remarks

- The **high intermarriage** rate of Post-1965 native-born Asian Americans, despite the radical increase in Asian populations, indicates:
 - their high acculturation;
 - their high structural assimilation;
 - the reduction of the Asian-White racial boundary.

- But some Asian groups like **Indians** and **Vietnamese** have much lower intermarriage rates than the national average mainly because of:
 - their non-Christian traditional religious background;
 - having more recent immigrants.

- Scholars of immigrant tend to use **generation as a homogeneous group** according to which in-married second-generation Asian Americans usually marry other second-generation **co-ethnic partners**.
- But our data show that the majority of in-married Asian Americans are married to **1.5- or immigrant generation partners**.

- **Consequences** of cross-generational in-marriages are more important than their causes.
 - more likely to maintain stronger **transnational ties**;
 - more likely to preserve stronger **ethnic cultural traditions** than those married to native-born partners.