

Contents

<i>List of Figures and Tables</i>	page xi
<i>Transcription Conventions</i>	xiii
<i>Preface</i>	xv
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xxvii

PART I. OVERVIEW

1	Conventional Discourses, Public Opinion, and Political Culture	3
	<i>How Americans Talk About Immigration and Social Provision</i>	3
	<i>What Are Conventional Discourses?</i>	15
	<i>Mysteries of Opinion</i>	20
	<i>Political Culture</i>	28
	<i>Organization and Larger Goals</i>	32
2	Analysis of Conventional Discourses: Background and Methods	60
	<i>An Oft-Repeated, Shared Schema</i>	60
	<i>Conventional Discourse Analysis Methods: Drawing Up the List</i>	65
	<i>Summary</i>	79
3	Conventional Discourses and Personal Lives	80
	<i>Do People Just Passively Absorb Conventional Discourses?</i>	
	<i>Acquiring, Interpreting, and Becoming Invested in Discourses</i>	83
	<i>How Opinions Are Constructed</i>	111
	<i>Concluding Thoughts</i>	116

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-68869-8 - Making Sense of Public Opinion: American Discourses About
 Immigration and Social Programs

Claudia Strauss
 Table of Contents
[More information](#)

viii

Contents

PART II. IMMIGRATION

4	Public Opinion About Immigration	121
	<i>Explanations of Public Opinion in the Scholarly Literature</i>	124
	<i>Conventional Discourses and American Public Opinion About Immigration</i>	129
	<i>Nonconforming Discourses</i>	136
	<i>Summary</i>	138
5	“Too Many Immigrants” and Discourses About Economic Costs and Benefits	139
	<i>Too Many Immigrants Discourse</i>	140
	<i>Foreigners Taking Our Jobs Discourse</i>	142
	<i>Help Our Own First Discourse</i>	144
	<i>Benefits for Contributors Discourse</i>	146
	<i>Jobs Americans Don’t Want Discourse</i>	148
	<i>Immigrants’ Work Ethic Discourse</i>	149
	<i>Free Market Discourse</i>	151
6	Discourses About Legality, Illegality, and National Security	154
	<i>Illegal Is Wrong Discourse</i>	155
	<i>National Security Discourse</i>	157
	<i>Comprehensive Reform Discourse</i>	159
7	Discourses About Immigration and American Culture	162
	<i>Speak English and Assimilate Discourse</i>	162
	<i>National Symbols Discourse</i>	166
	<i>Racial Differences/Cultural Inferiority Discourse</i>	168
	<i>Nation of Immigrants Discourse</i>	171
	<i>Land of Opportunity Discourse</i>	173
	<i>Cultural Diversity Discourse</i>	176
	<i>Good People as Individuals Discourse</i>	178
	<i>Getting Along Discourse</i>	181
	<i>Equal Rights Discourse</i>	182
	<i>Humanitarian Discourse</i>	185
8	Discourses About Immigration Causes and Contexts	190
	<i>Employers Taking Advantage Discourse</i>	191
	<i>Fix Sending Countries Discourse</i>	194
	<i>Anti-Neoliberalism/Anti-Imperialism Discourse</i>	195
	<i>Postnationalism Discourse</i>	197

PART III. SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS

9	Public Opinion About Social Welfare Programs	203
	<i>Mixed American Public Opinion About Social Assistance Programs</i>	205
	<i>Previous Research on Mixed Views About Social Assistance</i>	210

Contents

ix

	<i>From Standard Ideologies to Vernacular Discourses</i>	213
	<i>Summary</i>	221
10	Discourses About Limitations of Government Programs	223
	<i>Free Market Discourse</i>	225
	<i>Necessary Inequality Discourse</i>	227
	<i>Government Inefficiency Discourse</i>	229
	<i>Fiscal Responsibility Discourse</i>	232
	<i>Government Intrusion Discourse</i>	234
	<i>Antitax Discourse</i>	238
11	Discourses About Personal Responsibility and Benefits for the Deserving	243
	<i>Land of Opportunity Discourse</i>	244
	<i>Personal Responsibility Discourse</i>	246
	<i>Work Ethic Discourse</i>	247
	<i>Self-Reliance Discourse</i>	253
	<i>Spending Versus Saving Discourse</i>	258
	<i>Benefits Only for Contributors Discourse</i>	259
	<i>Welfare Abuse Discourse</i>	263
	<i>Unwed Mothers and Deadbeat Dads Discourse</i>	265
	<i>Incapacity Exception to Self-Reliance Discourse</i>	266
	<i>Help People Be Self-Reliant Discourse</i>	268
	<i>Work Should Be Rewarded Discourse</i>	270
	<i>Contributors Deserve Benefits Discourse</i>	273
12	Discourses About Caring for Self, Family, Community, and Nation	277
	<i>Quality of Life Discourse</i>	278
	<i>The Dollar Versus Good Values Discourse</i>	279
	<i>Caring for Family and Community Discourse</i>	282
	<i>Poverty and Crime Discourse</i>	290
	<i>Social Investment Discourse</i>	291
	<i>Corporate Social Investment Discourse</i>	294
	<i>Providing Americans' Basic Needs Discourse</i>	295
	<i>Taxes and Citizenship Discourse</i>	303
13	Discourses About Social Causes of Economic Insecurity	308
	<i>Low Self-Esteem Discourse</i>	310
	<i>Negative Role Models Discourse</i>	311
	<i>Education and Opportunity Discourse</i>	314
	<i>Equal Rights Discourse</i>	315
	<i>Wealth, Connections, and Other Advantages Discourses</i>	318
	<i>Fewer Opportunities Discourse</i>	321
	<i>Politicians Don't Care About the Average Person Discourse</i>	323

	<i>Greed of Corporations and the Rich Discourse</i>	326
	<i>Anti-Corporate-Capitalism Discourse</i>	332
PART IV. CONCLUSION		
14	Questions and Implications	337
	<i>Foundational Issues</i>	339
	<i>Suggestions for Future Study</i>	343
	<i>Implications for Research on Opinions</i>	345
	<i>Implications for Advocacy and Dialogue</i>	350
	<i>Appendix A. North Carolina Interviewees</i>	355
	<i>Appendix B. Methods of Data Collection</i>	359
	<i>First Interview, 2000</i>	361
	<i>Second Interview, 2000</i>	363
	<i>Follow-up Interview, 2005</i>	363
	<i>Appendix C. Mexican American Discourses and the</i> <i>Theory of Divergence by Hannah Pick</i>	367
	<i>Interviewees and Methods</i>	371
	<i>Discourses About Immigration</i>	372
	<i>Discourses About Social Welfare Programs</i>	380
	<i>Conclusions</i>	386
	<i>References Cited</i>	389
	<i>Author Index</i>	403
	<i>Subject Index</i>	407