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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Following the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, many authors found early empirical evidence of a rise in anti-Asian prejudice and hate crimes toward this minority group (Lu, 2021; Wang et al, 2021; Cheng et al, 2021). This research aims to contribute to this literature by studying the effects of the Covid-19 crisis and more specifically, of the first French lockdown in March 2020, in terms of self-reported experiences of racism and discrimination. I will consider the Covid-19 crisis as an exogenous shock on the Trajectories and Origins 2 survey, conducted in France from July 2019 to December 2020. This large-scale representative survey enables an analysis of the consequences of the Covid-19 crisis using the "Unexpected Event during Survey Design" (UESD) as defined by Munoz, Falco-Gimeno and Hernandez (2020). Drawing on descriptive analyses, difference-in-differences methods, and an intersectional analysis of interaction effects, I examine self-reported experiences of racism and of discrimination among descendants of Asian immigrants in France, and its evolution through the survey.

Research questions and hypotheses

Asians are often represented as a « model minority » and a well-integrated group, associated to positive stereotypes (Wong et al, 1998; Luguern, 2016). However, some authors show that positive stereotypes are generally linked to negative ones, making them ambivalent. Besides, they are usually coupled with negative prejudice (Lin et al, 2005), which take over in times of crisis (Legewie, 2013). Indeed, as revealed by the Covid-19 context, the favorable image of Asian people did not protect them from racist verbal and physical attacks (Chuang, 2020). Given these specificities of the stereotypes they are subject to, what impact has the Covid-19 pandemic had on self-reported experiences of racism and discrimination among descendants of Asian immigrants in France?

This presentation aims to assess the causal effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on French Asian people's experiences of racism and discrimination. Moreover, the goal of this paper consists in examining who, among Asians, self-reported experiences of racism and discrimination the most. I hypothesize that:

1. According to the literature about this issue, a Covid-related effect on self-reported experiences of racism and discrimination among descendants of Asian immigrants, could be observed between the beginning and the end of the « Trajectories and Origins 2 » French survey.
2. Given the ambivalence of the representations about the Asians, they could self-report experiences of racism and discrimination in different ways. It is expected to find a significant increase in self-reported experiences of racism and a limited increase in self-reported discriminations.
3. The Covid-19 crisis is expected to affect the entire Asian minority group homogeneously, regardless of nationality of origin, social class and gender.

Data and Methods

The group of Asians as defined from the « Trajectories et Origines 2 » survey is composed of N=1,316 individuals with at least one parent born in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, or China. Their sociodemographic characteristics are studied in relation with their answers about racism and discrimination. The group of comparison is composed of African immigrants' descendants (N=7,472). The two main variables that I used are:

- First, the racism variable associated with the question "During your life, have you been the target of insults, comments or openly racist attitudes in France?" (coded in 1="Yes", 0="No").
- Second, the discrimination variable associated with the question "In the last 5 years, do you think you have experienced unequal treatment or discrimination? This may have occurred in employment, housing, school, government, banking, on the street, etc." (coded in 1="Sometimes" or "Often" and 0="Never").

Descriptive analyses will enable to document how Asian people in France self-reported experiences of racism and discrimination compared to other groups of different origins from July 2019 to December 2020. I will then apply a difference-in-differences model to estimate the causal effects of the lockdown of March 2020 on the self-reported experiences of racism and then of discrimination. To do so, I will compare the treated group (descendants of Asian immigrants) with a control group (descendants of African immigrants, who are the most studied group when it comes to racism and discrimination), before and after the lockdown of March 2020. This will allow a causal analysis of the effects of the pandemic on Asians' self-reported experiences of racism and discrimination relatively to descendants of African immigrants. Finally, I will conduct a binary logistic regression model including interaction effects to specify who, among descendants of Asian immigrants in France, self-reported the most experiences of racism following the first French lockdown.

Preliminary results

Preliminary results show that the perception of racism and of discrimination evolved independently when it comes to Asian immigrants' descendants: while the self-reported experiences of racism increased substantially, the self-reported experiences of discrimination remained stable during the Covid-19 period. Even though the scientific literature often documents the relation between racism and discrimination

(Hamel *et al*, 2016), the example of descendants of Asian immigrants during this context appears as an exception. Moreover, the increase in self-reported racism among Asians appears short-lived: a few months after the lockdown in March of 2020, it seems to decrease progressively.

1. Self-reported experiences of racism significantly increased during the Covid-19 period but not self-reported discrimination, which remained stable all along.
2. People of Chinese descent are the group who self-reported experiences of racism the most, compared to the other Asian origins. It appears to be a noticeable result because Chinese people were the most targeted people following the Covid-19 crisis.
3. Consistently with the literature, Asian men self-reported racism more than women over the period, and women self-reported more discrimination than men. However, lower-class Asian men were the ones who self-reported the most experiences of racism following the Covid-19 lockdown, which appears to be quite counter-intuitive considering the literature.

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