

While there is a wealth of research exploring the impact of social networks on immigrant economic assimilation, less is known on the influence that networks have on political participation. In addition, identification of network effects remains challenging due to well known endogeneity issues. An opportunity to circumvent such problems comes from historical complete-count Census data, which include the exact address of residence of each immigrant. We combine historical GIS methods with more than 6 million observations from the 1930 Census to construct an individual's network. We find that networks fostered immigrant political assimilation by providing both useful information and practical help.