Who is Head of the Household in Interracial Marriages?

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Research Questions
- Who is more likely to be the household head in interracial marriages and same-race marriages?
- Does the association vary by sex, or nativity status?

Significance
- Rising interracial relationships are seen as evidence of declining social distance between whites and minorities (Lichter, Qian, and Tumin 2015).

Background
- In 1967, only 3% of all U.S. newlyweds had a spouse of a different race or ethnicity, in 2015 17% of newlyweds were intermarried (Pew Research Center, 2017).
- Images of interracial relationships in media continue to be shaped by white normalcy, the eroticization of people of color, and male authority (Nemoto, 2016).
- Certain couple types of interracial relationships have become more acceptable than others (Nemoto, 2016).

Hypothesis
- White men who are married to minorities will be more likely to be the household head.

Data and Sample
- 2016 American Community Survey (ACS)
- Nationally Representative Sample, census based, cross sectional study of 1% of American households in 2016.
- Sample includes married couples.

Dependent Variable
Marital Power
- The person who is living or staying here whose name this house or apartment is being rented, bought, or owned in.

Independent Variables
Race & Ethnicity
- Non-Hispanic white
- Non-Hispanic black
- Hispanic (any race)
- Non-Hispanic Asian alone

Intermarriage
- Same-race marriage

Analyses

Figure 1. Head of Household in Intermarriages (Male Perspective)

Figure 2. Effect of Nativity on Determining Head of Household in Intermarriages (Male Perspective)

Summary & Concluding Thoughts
- Previous research finds that interracial relationships reduces barriers between races.
- This study reveals that this may not be the case, as there are significant differences in power in interracially married couples
- Being white and male is strongly related to being the head of household, especially if white males are partnered with female minorities
- Nativity status matters in determining whether Asian women are likely to be head of household in interracial marriages
- These findings are critical because so few studies examine power dynamic differences between same-race and different-race relationships

References