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### **Immigration in Late Night Talk Shows: A Qualitative Analysis**

Immigration is a highly politicized issue within the United States, and media attention on the issue has increased since the entrance of former President Trump into the political sphere. The current US population is polarized, divided over perceptions of immigrants in a country built by immigrants. Although Trump targeted many different categories of migrants, undocumented migration has been a main subject of discrimination. The ascent of such a politically polarizing figure in Washington, combined with an increasingly digitized society, has created a space for heightened preexisting anti-immigrant sentiments within the American public and prior legislation (Abrego et al 2017).

A fundamental factor in this equation is the media. As research shows, the media has a powerful role in reinforcing negative stereotypes and narratives about immigration (Mohamed & Farris 2020; Valentino et al 2013), especially regarding Latino immigrants (McConnel 2011; McConnel 2014; Farris & Mohamed 2018). Although the connection between the media and anti-immigration is complex, three media effects of priming, framing, and agenda-setting help us understand how negative narratives are perpetuated. Within the accessibility model, agenda-setting occurs when particular emphasis is continuously posed on a particular issue, and priming occurs when “news content suggests to news audiences that they ought to use specific issues as benchmarks for evaluating the performance of leaders and governments” (Scheufele et al 2007). Within the applicability model, framing occurs when a particular issue is contextualized in such a way as to create a specific understanding in the mind of the audience (Scheufele et al 2007).

How are these effects conveyed? Scholars concur on the complexity of the phenomenon. These methods of influence can be so nuanced and subtle that even media sources that seek to tear down ideological barriers end up erecting them – such as with the use of the “us versus them” concept (Chiumbu 2018). For example, in the case of undocumented migration, using any “dangerous water metaphors” – words such as “flow,” “flood,” “wave,” “sink” – instill a precise image of natural disaster, thus invoking a sense of threat (McConnel 2014). Therefore, the continuous exposure to a certain topic, as well as the clear associations of immigrants with negative threatening symbols produces a distinct image in the minds of viewers. Republican media representations of immigration issues have demonstrated strong anti-immigration sentiments through stereotyping and the criminalization of undocumented immigrants. However, these representations can also influence college educated, liberal individuals (McCabe 2020; Flores & Schachter 2019). In the end, connections between immigration and threat and crime narratives result in the election of anti-immigration officials, which in turn affect policy making (McConnel 2011; Bleick et al. 2015).

It is therefore imperative to understand the presence of these effects in every sphere of media, especially within political entertainment. Aside from the most common forms of media, such as newspapers and cable TV, political comedy has become increasingly important in shaping viewers’ political beliefs and attitudes. Political comedy is defined as media which “emphasizes humorous coverage of current issues and parodies of political figures” (Cao & Brewer 2007). There is also broad academic consensus on the role late night comedy has on shaping political knowledge. This occurs through encouraging political engagement and participation, as well as “encouraging normally inattentive individuals to pay attention to related content presented by more traditional news sources” (Becker 2012). Indeed, the importance of analyzing media effects in political comedy lays within the nature of these shows in the first place. Baum found that the majority of people who watch late-night talk shows are hardly aware of what goes on in government and public affairs (Baum 2005). Thus, although audiences of late-night comedy may define themselves as liberal, their political attitudes and beliefs are malleable because of their generally low knowledge of political events (Pew Research 2010). Since former President Trump’s election into office, late night talk shows have given especially greater attention to his “political incorrectness,” blunt behavior,

and discriminatory policies that have mobilized those with similar sentiments across the nation. Although the shows' audiences watch this type of media to be entertained, not to be informed, they are nonetheless exposed to agenda setting, framing, and priming (Baum 2003; McCabe et al 2020; Flores & Schachter 2019).

We have conducted a qualitative study of three prominent late-night comedy talk shows in order to analyze the priming, framing, and agenda-setting methods used to influence public opinion regarding the topic of immigration. We hoped to determine whether there was a greater frequency of coverage within either the Obama or Trump administration, and whether the prominence of a different partisan political elite allowed for the circulation of more negative associations with issues of immigrants and immigration.

## **DATA AND METHODS**

Our qualitative study compares three late night comedy talk shows: "The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon," "The Daily Show with Trevor Noah," and "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert." In particular, we focus on videos featuring immigrants and immigration in the last two years of the second Obama administration (2015-2016) and the last two years of the Trump administration (2019-2020). As former president Trump put immigration as one of the main issue on the political agenda, we wonder how rhetoric regarding immigration has been conveyed and framed in talk shows, all of them viewed by a mostly liberal audience between the age of 18-49 (Abrego et al. 2017; Pew Research 2010).

We used YouTube as the search engine for our sample of videos from the three shows. YouTube is a widely accessible form of media, and it is especially used by youth between the ages of 15 and 36 (Tankovska 2021). In addition, YouTube is free and open to everyone, which not only allows us access to such material for our study, but also reflects the availability of the content to the public. The "suggested" videos function on the website also gave us a beneficial indicator of the prolonged exposure and efficacy of the medium. Moreover, the official "channels" of each show only post videos in the forms of clips or sketches, which indicate the most significant information documented for each episode. Thus, our findings (or non-findings) have allowed us to understand how much exposure audiences get on the topic of immigration.

YouTube has been described as a form of post-television, and although the three shows first aired on TV, they are then uploaded onto their YouTube channels. This is how audiences, especially those of younger ages, interact with these shows (Dynel 2014). All three shows are quite well-established on the platform. "The Daily Show with Trevor Noah" counts 9.1 million subscribers with almost 4 billion views ("The Daily"). "The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon" has 27.2 million subscribers and 14.2 billion views ("The Tonight"). Finally, "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" has 8.4 million subscribers and 7.4 billion views ("The Late").

In order to collect our empirical evidence, we identified keywords that were meant to help us find and analyze content. These were: "immigration," "undocumented," "Latinos," "DACA," and "detention centers." We did not include words such as "Obama" or "Trump", since the topic of immigration is already highly politicized, and most of the videos we studied referred to an administration or a political party. This way, we kept our search results unbiased and were able to classify each video within either the Obama or Trump administration by identifying the date each was posted. In this way, episodes were selected based on their relevance to the topic of immigration whether through title or contents.

In total, we in-depth analyzed 26 videos, watching for language, contextualization, references to specific types of immigration, and negative stereotypes. The number of views per video varies for each show, most likely due to disparities between the number of channel subscribers for each, as well as the disproportionate interest in specifically immigration issues based on the different viewer bases of each show. Thus, we attempted to only include videos with more than one million views. However, this proved difficult for the videos from non-political "The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon," as his main audience does not watch his show for its political content.

Then, rather than assigning a positive or negative nature to the specific keywords, we analyzed the context in which that word was used. Decontextualization is one of the key ways in which negative

perceptions about immigration are embraced by audiences (McConnel 2011). For instance, using the word “wall” in the same sentence in which the host talks about migrants from Mexico and Central America, implicates a connection between the two subjects, thus enforcing an image of illegality.

We created two main hypotheses with which to base our research study. These hypotheses are as follows:

- H1: The issue of immigration will be brought up much more frequently during the Trump administration than Obama administration
- H2: The portrayal of immigration and immigrants will be associated with negative symbols such as crime and illegality
  - This will reflect the notion regarding threat narratives, associated with immigrants and immigration, as well as media effects of agenda setting, priming, and framing.

## **RESULTS AND ANALYSIS**

Our qualitative results are demonstrated in table form appended to this paper, in which we provide a detailed description of the 26 videos we studied, including the number of views each video has received, the title of each video, and a concise description of the content of each video. In this section of our report, we will analyze the evidence provided by these videos.

### **I. The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon**

Generally, “The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon” covered the topic of immigration infrequently. Most importantly, we found no videos covering immigration during the last two years of the Obama administration. In contrast, we found a total of five video clips during the Trump administration. The lack of videos during the last two years of the Obama presidency tells us that the discourse on immigration was not a main focus of “The Tonight Show.” Further, although interviewees of the show came from immigrant backgrounds, their identity as immigrants was never the focal point of the conversations.

The five videos that occurred under the Trump administration featured Fallon or interviewees addressing Trump’s rhetoric on immigrants, mostly through the use of humor. For example, in “Trump’s Immigration Speech Recap”, Fallon states that one would become intoxicated if she was to drink every time Trump repeated anti-immigrant rhetoric. Further, in Fallon’s interview with Jim Jefferies, the interviewee jokingly explains that because he has become an American citizen, he can now hate immigrants, blame them for taking jobs and break laws without the risk of deportation. In another video, Jefferies also jokes about how he’s the type of “bad” immigrant who makes other immigrants “bring drugs in” (Appendix: I). Furthermore, the US Naturalization Ceremony was a present topic in the videos. Both Jefferies and John Oliver address how Trump’s ceremony video was meant to make new citizens feel unwelcome. The Tonight Show does take certain measures to portray immigration positively. In another video, Fallon features a news reporting that portrays the Supreme Court upholding DACA and does not use terms like “illegal” or “alien” to describe the migrants.

Overall, immigration coverage in the Tonight Show is minimal. However, when it is covered, it occurs mostly as a result of a controversy within the Trump administration. Fallon uses humor to address immigration in an attempt to paint immigrant stereotypes as absurd and unfounded. However, this also contributes to the continued prevalence of these stereotypes. Specifically, the overrepresentation of Latinos and Latino men in immigration stories prime audiences for political rhetoric that labels these groups as “bad hombres” (Mohamed and Farris, 2020).

### **II. The Daily Show with Trevor Noah**

Trevor Noah replaced John Stewart as The Daily Show host in September 2015, during the second half of Obama’s second Presidency. However, the research in the show’s YouTube channel reveals no

videos connecting immigration and the Obama administration during the time frame of 2015 and 2017. There are, however, videos that connect Trump and immigration while Obama was still President. Indeed, Noah covers Trump's race in the Republican Party, and even before he is elected in the primaries, Noah already uses Trump's speeches, agenda, and rhetoric. For example, in the video posted on March 24th, 2016, Noah uses the infamous "They're bringing drugs" speech.

Throughout the analysis, the most common pattern is the use of words that are related to migration and create the image of undocumented migration in the mind of the viewer (i.e., "the wall" "the border"). The type of migration most frequently discussed is undocumented - in relation to Trump's policies and speeches - and always framed with certain immigrant groups: Latinos, either from Mexico or Central America. Although Noah's goal is always to roast Trump and his aides, he keeps enforcing the concept of "crimmigration" by using clips of Trump's speeches, Cable TV's headlines from CNN, Fox News or newspapers such as The Washington Post. Throughout, there are no findings of undocumented migrants being portrayed as "good" migrants. However, while debunking Trump, Noah also offers factually precise information, correcting Trump or the clip source. For example, Noah shows a clip from Fox News with the headline: "Trump cuts US aid to three *Mexican* countries" and subsequently calls out the news source for the mistake, making a joke.

Finally, there is small coverage of other types of immigration: visa lottery, chain migration, "Einstein visa program", high-skilled migration (especially in Silicon Valley). Although this is positive because it does not set the agenda towards a specific debate (i.e., undocumented migration), coverage of other types of migration is minimal, thus shaping the debate towards illegality.

### **III. The Late Show with Stephen Colbert**

Under the YouTube search for "Stephen Colbert immigration," we found ten videos discussing immigration from the last two years of the Trump administration (2019-2020), and one video from the last two years of the Obama administration (2015-2016). In the ten videos from the end of the Trump administration, there is heavy use of parody, criticism, framing, and priming of immigration policies and issues. While Stephen Colbert's show revolves around comedic reporting tactics, there were far more identifiable framing and priming tactics used throughout the ten videos from 2019-2020 than there were in the single video found from 2016.

In the video from 2016, entitled "Gael Garcia Bernal: We All Come From Migrants," Stephen Colbert interviews guest Bernal who speaks about the "criminalization" migrants experience when "they are just trying to make their future better" (Appendix: III). This conversation addresses common criminalizing frameworks on migrants perpetuated through media reporting, while also "humanizing" migrants (Ewing et al 2015, Abdelhady 2019). The frame of "humanization" is assumed to be positive, yet it perpetuates a narrative of victimization and "otherness" that associates immigrants with negative perceptions (Abdelhady 2019).

In contrast, the framing, priming, and contextualization within the 2019-2020 videos are much more aggressive, negative, and critical. Eight of the ten videos feature headlines, tweets, and video clips either about or directly from former president Trump. Stephen Colbert uses a Trump impersonation voice throughout all eight of these videos, and new media sources or information from Trump or Republican political figures is consistently primed with a critical or offensive introduction. Once clips, tweets, headlines, or quotes regarding immigration news updates are presented, Stephen Colbert adds comedic and critical commentary. While the negativity of this commentary is applied to the actions and words of Trump or his administration, the language and comedy reinforces negative threat narratives of criminality, illegality, and 'otherness' towards immigrants by association. While there were much more obvious priming and framing methods in the ten videos from 2019 to 2020, all eleven videos demonstrated negative narrative associations with immigrants.

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

With this qualitative research, we sought to analyze how seemingly “liberal” late night talk shows conveyed the issue of immigration during the end of both Obama and Trump administrations. We conducted this research to understand the role that political comedy has in exposing audiences to three media effects: agenda-setting, framing, and priming. The three shows that we studied, “The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon,” “The Daily Show with Trevor Noah,” and “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert” offered consistent information.

Since the political ascendance of Trump, there is evidently greater coverage from late night talk shows regarding Trump’s actions on immigration than there is on Obama’s actions on immigration. This is demonstrated through the sheer amount of videos easily accessible to the public, as well as the heavy use of Trump’s tweets, comments, speeches, and policies within such late night talk show media forms. Although the shows we studied are demonstrably liberal and are targeted towards liberal audiences, their coverage continues to perpetuate negative stereotypes of immigrants, even when done with a comedic or ironic tone. They also especially reinforce negative stereotypes regarding undocumented migration and Latinos.

Our findings are consistent with our proposed hypotheses as well as with established scholarship and research on the effects of media on public opinion and societal narratives. Such scholarship, from the fields of sociology, communications and political science, examines the role media has in shaping public opinion towards immigration and immigrants. Media discourse can also impact how these public attitudes translate to restrictive policies. Our findings demonstrate that across more “political” (“The Daily Show” and “The Late Show”) and less “political” (“The Tonight Show”) late night talk shows, there is a common thread of negative associations with immigrants and issues of immigration, particularly reinforcing crime and threat narratives on specific groups of immigrants, such as unauthorized ones. However, it is important to note that the quantity of material that covered immigration was higher in the more “political” shows, thus giving us insight about the role played by political comedy in setting the agenda for immigration.

Due to our utilization of YouTube as a source for widespread and easily accessible information, these perpetuated threat narratives tied to information on immigration are consumed by people across the globe. Since YouTube is an especially popular form of communication and education for young people, these late-night talk show narratives are highly influential in shaping the most malleable of public opinions. We also see a clear trend across all three shows that there has been much greater coverage of immigration issues from 2019 to 2020 than 2015 to 2016. This data, coupled with negative priming, framing, and agenda-setting methods used by these shows when presenting such issues, creates a current expansive space of negative immigration narratives within political comedy and late-night talk shows in general.

Our research contributes to prior findings on the heavy influence of political comedy on shaping average public attitudes towards immigration. Although the audiences of these shows are likely to be liberal, and thus the indirect enforcement of negative threat narratives about immigrants are not likely to change political affiliations, such media representations nonetheless contribute to the exposure of viewers to specific images, words, and ideas surrounding the topic of immigration, which can affect voting patterns and perceptions towards immigrants. If younger generations continue to get political information from easily accessible forms of media online, and late night comedy talk shows on these platforms continue to influence the opinions of these generations through framing, priming, and agenda-setting, it is incredibly important that such narratives do not always equate issues of immigration with negative symbols or associations. In an increasingly digitized and interconnected world, it is important to understand how media sources convey information in order to critically analyze how audiences perceive such information. For public populations to be truly “informed” on issues of immigration, we must analyze the sources from which this “information” comes from in order to be truly aware of the impact such information has on public attitudes, experiences, and policies within our society.

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## APPENDIX

### Key:

- Videos found during the Obama administration are denoted in blue:

Date Views	Title • Notes
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- Videos found during the Trump administration are denoted in red:

Date Views	Title • Notes
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### **I. The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon**

Date Views	Title • Notes
1/10/19 232K	“Trump's Immigration Speech Recap” <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drinking game of negative immigrant rhetoric</li><li>• Commonly accepted that portrayal would be negative</li></ul>
3/14/19 613K	“Jim Jefferies Compares Trump's U.S. Naturalization Ceremony Speech to Obama's” <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Joke that becoming American means hating other immigrants, blaming them for taking our jobs</li><li>• Privilege of citizenship - being able to “break laws” without risk of deportation</li><li>• Contrast between Obama and Trump naturalization video - formal, well spoken vs. assimilate</li></ul>
9/13/19 567K	“Jim Jefferies Is a Fail to His Son and a Bad Immigrant to America” <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interviewee jokes about “bad” immigrants who bring drugs in (in rhetorical manner)</li></ul>
06/08/20 595K	“John Oliver Shares His Frightening Path to American Citizenship” <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oliver perceives that video congratulating citizens is not meant to make new citizens feel welcome</li><li>• Imm process takes 20,30 years</li></ul>
6/18/20 145K	“Supreme Court Upholds DACA” <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• News program used only referred to DACA recipients as “immigrants”</li></ul>

### **II. The Daily Show with Trevor Noah**



Date Views	Title <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notes</li> </ul>
09/28/15 7.1 M	<p>“Trevor Noah Continues the War of Bulls**t: The Daily Show”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noah - an immigrant from South Africa - enforces the rhetoric that he came to America to “take your job” as he replaces John Stewart as host</li> </ul>
03/24/16 3.7 M	<p>“How the F**k We Got Here - Donald Trump - The GOP's Perfect Match: The Daily Show”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noah talks about the Republican nomination of Donald Trump</li> <li>“They’re bringing drugs” speech referred to Mexican immigrants</li> <li>References to the wall, immigrants and drugs, human smuggling</li> <li>Get rid of Muslim Communities</li> <li>Noah labels Trump as xenophobic, spreading hatred</li> </ul>
05/13/16 2.7 M	<p>“Donald Trump to Thank for Increase in Latino Citizenship: The Daily Show</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noah talks about Latino LPR who are mobilizing to naturalize in order to vote against Trump</li> <li>Use of words “illegal” related to “Mexican immigrants”, and then “criminals” “rapists”</li> <li>“12 million illegal immigrants”</li> <li>Wall - Mexico will pay</li> <li>“They’re bringing drugs” speech</li> </ul>

Date Views	Title <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notes</li> </ul>
4/4/19 1.1 M	<p>“Trump Exacerbates America’s Immigration Crisis”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noah shows Fox News headline, “Trump Cuts US Aid to three Mexican Countries” referring to Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala, and corrects this making a joke</li> <li>Noah shows clips from a multitude of source of how Trump is militarizing the border in order to stop “massive caravans from Guatemala”</li> <li>“We’ll keep [the border] close for a long time”</li> <li>“Such a spike of migrants” that they were forced to stay under a bridge</li> </ul>
5/23/19 1.4 M	<p>“Mexicans Have Been Stealing Pieces of the Wall”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shows clip “Razor wire used to reinforce the US-Mexico border is being stolen and sold by Tijuana residents”</li> <li>Noah, “Mexico is stealing the wall”</li> <li>Noah imitates Trump, “we’re gonna need a second wall to protect the first one”</li> <li>Noah, “if they’re stealing the wire, they might as well just steal the whole wall”</li> <li>Concept of <i>stealing</i> repeated multiple times, enforces concept of illegality</li> </ul>
8/14/19 6.4M	<p>“Is Donald Trump Trying to Deport Melania?”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noah, “a lot of people think that he [Trump] hates immigrants”, imitates Trump, “people who come to the US, the wrong way, and work in the country illegally [...] and everyone assumes that because he’s racist he’s talking about Mexicans”</li> <li>“Melania did not have the right visa for her modelling job”</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noah imitates Trump, “lots of foreigners are taking advantage of America’s immigration system” referring to Indian computer programmers in Silicon Valley</li> <li>“Einstein Visa”</li> <li>Trump’s speech on chain migration, reform the visa lottery system, “You come here and bring you goddam family with you”... “a single immigrant can bring in virtually unlimited numbers of distant relatives,” Noah debunks him</li> </ul>
11/4/19 2.5 M	<p>“Trump’s Impenetrable Wall Isn’t So Impenetrable”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noah, “in many ways, the wall is the son Trump always wanted... taller, stronger, and smarter”</li> <li>Shows speech by Trump, “this is a very serious wall [...] steel, concrete, see-through..”</li> <li>Noah imitates Trump, “Some Mexicans aren’t named Marcos”</li> <li>Noah shows clip of news source, “Mexican smuggling gangs have repeatedly sought-through sections of Trump’s wall”</li> </ul>
04/21/20 1 M	<p>“Governors Ease Restrictions and Trump Shuts Out Immigrants”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trump suspends all immigration to the US with an executive order</li> <li>Noah, “remember, 2/3 of his wives have been immigrants”</li> <li>Fox News clip about how Trump’s EO affects immigrant au pairs, but Noah debunks Fox and explains that these are not the immigrants who suffer from this EO</li> <li>Noah explains Trump’s EO and how it affects asylum-seekers, visa applications, refugee-program.</li> </ul>
10/25/20 1.4 M	<p>“Trump’s Travel Ban: A Disaster in Four Acts”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noah gives an overview of Trump’s immigration policies during his past 4 years</li> <li>Travel Ban from Muslim countries</li> <li>Noah makes fun of Nancy Pelosi during a speech (first time he makes fun of a Democratic elected official in videos about immigration)</li> <li>Noah, “in moments like this I really miss Obama”</li> <li>Noah, “I’m sorry, it’s rude of me to make fun of the Democrats, before giving the President a chance”</li> <li>Trump’s speech, “we should only admit in this country those who share our values and respect our people”, “the time is overdue to develop a new screening test for the threats we face today, I call it ‘extreme vetting’”</li> </ul>
11/30/20 1.6 M	<p>“Trump Makes Immigration Harder &amp; Iranian Nuclear Scientist Killed”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noah, “Trump is spending his last weeks to make it much harder for legal immigrants to become citizens”</li> <li>Fox News: “More questions added to citizenship test”</li> </ul>

### III. The Late Show with Stephen Colbert

Date Views	Title <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notes</li> </ul>
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<p>10/7/16 702K</p>	<p>“Gael Garcia Bernal: We All Come From Migrants”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stephen Colbert hosts “talented Mexican actor, writer, and producer” Gael Garcia Bernal as guest</li> <li>● Discuss Bernal’s movie about group of migrants moving from Mexico to the US with desert vigilantes “hunting them” along the Arizona border</li> <li>● Stephen Colbert states “immigration is the hottest topic in our political landscape right now. Donald Trump has made his campaign about the wall, and stopping what you were calling ‘migrants’, what opponents of illegal immigration would call ‘illegals’” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Uses “illegals,” “migrants,” and “immigration” language</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Bernal discusses how Trump has called Mexicans “racists,” calls it spreading “hate speech,” and describes deportations from the US to Mexico as a “negative migration,”</li> <li>● Bernal states “we are criminalizing the natural flow of people,” “we all come from migrants,” and “the journey these people are doing is the most benevolent journey. They are trying to make their future better.”</li> </ul>
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Date Views	Title ● Notes
<p>1/30/19 1.6M</p>	<p>“Trump’s Immigration Claims Are Right Out of ‘Sicario’”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Trump comments attempting to “convince us to build his wall” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Rancher found prayer rugs by the border”</li> <li>○ “Immigrants have stronger, bigger, faster vehicles than our police have...”</li> <li>○ “Women are tied up, with duct tape on their faces, put in the backs of vans...”</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Stephen Colbert: “Scary and disturbing image”</li> <li>● “As of Friday he’d made 10 references to it in 22 days without anyone knowing exactly where he got it from.” - Vox <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Colbert makes fun of where Trump got the information, states it is actually the plot of “Sicario: Day of the Soldado” movie</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>4/8/19 2.1M</p>	<p>“Caging Kids Isn’t Tough Enough For Trump”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bit on “The Caravan” uses “othering” techniques of foreign music and Colbert dancing</li> <li>● “...Nielsen hasn’t...enacted stricter immigration rules...” (CNN politics)</li> <li>● Makes fun of Nielsen and Stephen Miller - discusses refugee children</li> <li>● “...Trump has been pushing to reinstate broader family separation policies...” (CNN politics)</li> </ul>
<p>4/18/19 795K</p>	<p>“Stephen Miller’s Even More Extreme Immigration Ideas”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stephen Miller: “we will do whatever we can to build a border wall”</li> <li>● Colbert: “Miller has reportedly been on an anti-immigrant rampage”</li> <li>● “Trump Sees an Obstacle to Getting His Way on Immigration: His Own Officials” (New York Times) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Quotes: “...overturn court-ordered protections for migrant children,” “...Stephen Miller called people at ICE, said...you’ve got to make sure you’re releasing people in Pelosi’s district...”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stephen Miller in March 2019 stated immigration officials shouldn't go to bed until they end protections for migrant kids</li> <li>● Stephen Miller impersonator talking to Stephen Colbert skit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bans people similarly to "Muslim immigrants"</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>5/10/19 1M</p>	<p>"Where Trump Stands on 'Shooting Immigrants'"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Subtitle of video: "If you can believe it, Donald Trump didn't condemn the rally attendee who shouted out 'shoot them!' when the topic of immigration was raised"</li> <li>● Colbert: "the moment everyone is talking about happened when Trump bragged about 'not shooting migrants at the border'" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Continues to show clip from rally</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Colbert shows that Trump condones, shakes off and jokes about shooting immigrants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Colbert: "no, that would be murder"</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>5/16/19 3.7M</p>	<p>"Jared's Immigration Plan Is A 'Complete Whiff'"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● "From patrolling Mexican border" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Colbert jokes about troops and weapons being sent to Iran</li> <li>○ Conflation of security efforts between the two countries</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Lots of Trump impersonation</li> <li>● "Trump pushing brand-new immigration plan" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Colbert: comes from "professional daughter husband Jared Kushner"</li> </ul> </li> <li>● "Trump prepares to unveil broad immigration plan but shows no signs of tempering hard-line rhetoric" (Washington Post) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ "...Jared Kushner, to move U.S. immigration toward a "merit-based system"</li> <li>○ "A point system based on professional skills, education levels, age and English ability..."</li> <li>○ Would favor "patriotic assimilation" and "favor immigrants [with] an active interest in incorporating the nation's culture and way of life"</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Colbert emphasizes and makes fun of "our culture and way of life"</li> <li>● Kushner wants immigrants to "pass an exam" based on speeches that nobody knows according to Colbert</li> <li>● "President Trump Introduces Kushner Immigration Plan to Overhaul Green Card System" (TIME) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ "...Favor people with high-level skills, degrees, and job offers instead of relatives" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Colbert makes fun of Kushner for hypocrisy</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● "POLITICO Playbook: What Dianne Feinstein's phone told us" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Describes it as "Jared's Complete Whiff" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Colbert states "dangerously unqualified"</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>6/8/19 1.2M</p>	<p>"Trump Takes Soccer Away From Migrant Children"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rhetoric of "migrant children refugees"</li> <li>● "Trump admin is canceling English classes, recreational programs and legal aid for...child migrants in U.S. shelters..." (Washington Post) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Colbert: "purely leaning into the evil"</li> </ul> </li> <li>● "Admin cutting off funding for all kinds of activities, like cutting soccer" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Colbert does Trump impersonation: "give wall, get ball"</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Says its administration’s way of pushing Trump immigration agenda and pressuring Congress</li> <li>● “[...]requirements that mandate education and recreation for minors in federal custody” (Washington Post)</li> <li>● Painting border wall for aesthetic appearance and security measure as hot black metal and spikes - Colbert makes fun</li> </ul>
<p>6/25/19 2.7M</p>	<p>“America’s High Ideals Aren’t On Display at U.S. Detention Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● “Acting Border Chief Expected to Resign as Migrant Children Are Returned to Texas Facility” (New York Times) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Customs and Border Protection agency’s acting commissioner, John Sanders, is expected to step down...”</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Colbert goes through a bunch of headlines and human rights violations in detention centers within a bunch of different press media</li> <li>● Trump clip shown regarding resignation and quoted “detention center children are from places where the conditions are horrible”</li> <li>● “The Price of Trump’s Migrant Deterrence Strategy: New Chaos on the Border” (New York Times) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “...a result of a failed gamble on the part of the Trump administration that a succession of ever-harsher border policies would deter the flood of migrants coming from Central America”</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Colbert talks about 4th of July and “American high ideals” and responsibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Here’s the problem with high ideals: you actually have to live up to them. And with these kids on the border, we’re not just failing to live up to our own standards.”</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Describes reporters taken hostage by Somali pirates and the Taliban were “given toothpaste and soap” while children in US detention centers have reportedly not been given these basic necessities</li> <li>● Colbert fact-checks clip of Trump saying he ended separation of families extremely common in the Obama administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “PolitiFact found that family separations were rare during the Obama and Bush administrations and became “systematic” under Trump’s zero-tolerance policy”</li> </ul> </li> <li>● “Trump’s right. Border arrests are surging. Here’s why.” (POLITICO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Smugglers are telling migrants, “They may shut the border, Trump is getting tougher...If you don’t go now, you’ll never get in.”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>4/21/2020 2M</p>	<p>“Trump’s Immigration Bombshell Came, As Always, Via Tweet”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Trump tweet read out loud in Colbert’s impersonation voice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “In light of the attack from the Invisible Enemy, as well as the need to protect the jobs of our GREAT American Citizens, I will be signing an Executive Order to temporarily suspend immigration into the United States!”</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Colbert: “just Trump using the virus as an excuse for what he’s always wanted to do anyway”</li> <li>● Colbert compares COVID-19 to 1918 flu pandemic, where the US still allowed thousands of immigrants into the country - specifically states Trump is being xenophobic</li> <li>● “...caught some Senior Homeland Security Officials off guard...”</li> </ul>

<p>9/16/20 184K</p>	<p>“Jacob Soboroff: Children Have Been Tortured Inside America’s Immigration Detention Centers”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Colbert interviews guest journalist and writer Jacob Soboroff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discuss new book “Separated,” about family separation policy instituted by Trump administration</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Colbert: “tell us about this extraordinarily cruel policy that has been used as a deterrent,” “Trump admin used cruelty as a deterrence”</li> <li>● Soboroff talks about experience at detention centers with tons of young boys, went to epicenter and saw kids sleeping on concrete floors and being surveilled by officials in watch towers</li> <li>● “This is the stakes of the election this year”</li> <li>● “There are still children that have not been reunited with their parents”</li> <li>● Soboroff states “over a thousand children” haven’t been reunited</li> <li>● Colbert: “Is Trump now using COVID as a cover to further his immigration agenda?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Soboroff: “Bingo.”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>9/16/20 87K</p>	<p>“Jacob Soboroff: Americans Are Not Paying Attention to Atrocities Happening in Our Immigration System”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Colbert and Soboroff discuss whistleblower about ICE detention center in Georgia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “People in detention are not being properly screened for COVID”</li> <li>○ Women are undergoing hysterectomies without their consent</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Soboroff talked to whistleblower, states: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lack of oversight throughout system as a whole</li> <li>○ Covid is happening and children are not being let out of ICE detention</li> <li>○ “We’re not paying attention to what’s happening in our own immigration system in the US”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>