

FUTURE OF METHODS AND MEASURES IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION RESEARCH

Testimony for the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine

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RELEVANT BACKGROUND

- Tenured appointments in African American Studies, Sociology, Education, Public Health
- Director, Institute in Critical Quantitative, Computational, and Mixed Methodologies (ICQCM)
- Executive Director, Hopkins Center for Safe and Healthy Schools
- Principal Investigator: Race, Gender, and Social Control in STEM Lab
- Member, Visiting Panel Educational Testing Services, and Johns Hopkins University AI+X Initiative

CONTEXT

Questions

- From your position in the field, what is the future of methods and measurement in education research in the United States?
- How are those methods and measures positioned (or not) to address equity issues in education?

Moment

- Racialized state violence
- Methods, measurement, and data science are not objective/race neutral – they supply the logics of systemic racism
- Understanding the interrelatedness of racial (in)justice in school and scientific measurement has become a leading concern of equity

OBSERVATIONS

- NCES national longitudinal studies do not include metrics that inform the nation on matters of justice and the carceral condition of U.S. schools. In fact, there has been some regression, on this point, in the capacity of longitudinal studies with individual level data.
- IES databases are not equipped to answer the most important questions about racialized mechanisms or experiences/perceptions of interpersonal and systemic racism

OVERVIEW

- Research about social control in schools
- Education Longitudinal Study: 2002, High School Longitudinal Study: 2009 and Facilities checklist
- Data harmonization of existing IES databases
- Metrics of race, racialization, and experiences of racism in study design

SOCIAL CONTROL

Social Control (Informal)

- Maintenance of social order through the adherence to and **internalization of shared norms** (Durkheim 1961), “internal **group regulation**” (Kirk 2009), and/or a “**repressive moral code**” (Massey 1996)

Formal Social Control

- “**State apparatuses**” (Althusser 1969; Foucault 2009), “**institutional** regulation of life” (Lacombe 1996), and/or the **laws, government** action, and institutions that arise in reaction to perceived deviance (Parsons 1937), “**coercion**” (Janowitz 1975), and “**social control technologies**” (Foucault 1975)

INFRASTRUCTURE OF SOCIAL CONTROL: IT'S...

CULTURAL POLICING

POLICY ENVIRONMENT

TECHNOLOGIES

LAW ENFORCEMENT

POLITICAL ECONOMIC

PUNISHMENT/DISCIPLINE

PEDAGOGICAL

ENDOGENOUS

RACE, GENDER & SOCIAL CONTROL IN STEM LAB

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(NSF #EEC-1833161, #DRL-1800199, #EEC-1619843)



RACE, GENDER AND SOCIAL CONTROL IN STEM LAB

Rationale

The order, conformity, and obedience-seeking school strategies (i.e. social control) to which certain race-gender groups are disproportionately exposed, are related to lowered levels of the qualities that are known to support success in STEM, including creativity, collaborative problem solving, interpersonal confidence, engagement, and self-efficacy.

Questions

- Do high-social control schools increase the likelihood of being suspended?
- Do high-social control schools decrease math achievement?
- Do high-social control schools decrease the likelihood of attending college?
- Does considering levels of social control account for race-gender differences in suspensions, math performances, and college enrollment?

METHODOLOGY

- Counterfactual Modeling
 - An approach to derive causal inferences from seemingly observational data (Morgan and Winship 2007; Johnson and Wagner 2017).
- Machine Learning Estimated Propensity scores
 - Represent the predicted probability that individuals with *certain qualities* will experience a treatment when assignment to those conditions is essentially nonrandom (Guo and Fraser 2015)
 - IPTW “Inverse probability of treatment weights” estimator for ATE using GBM

METHODOLOGY

Creating the Treatment

- Used administrative reports of *surveillance* (metal detector and camera), *searches* (having random metal detector checks; random dog sniffs; random contraband sweeps; and drug testing), and, *security* (closing the campus for lunch; requiring uniforms; enforcing strict dress codes; requiring clear book bags; requiring identification badges for students) to create a school average.
- Based on this measure, high schools were segmented into thirds.
- The highest third (3,708 students) was operationalized as high-social control schools, while the lowest third (4709 students) was operationalized as low-social control schools (1 = high-social control school; 0 = low-social control school).
- Multiple imputation using chained equations (MICE) is used to address missing values of independent variables only

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Cameras Are Being Used To Punish Students, Not Stop School Shooters

Nick Morrison

Nick Morrison Contributor
Education

EdW

'High-Surveillance' Schools Lead to More Suspensions, Lower Achievement



'High-Surveillance' Schools Lead to More Suspensions, Lower Achievement



By Sarah D. Sparks — April 21, 2021 5 min read



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- Black enrollment at high-social control schools (HSCS) is 24% compared to only 6% at low-social control schools (LSCS).
- Attending a HSCS increases the odds of receiving an in-school suspension (OR = 1.42; $p < 0.05$) net of school-level social disorder and individual-level misbehavior, especially for Black-males (OR = 3.20; $p < 0.05$) and Black females (OR = 1.99; $p < 0.05$).
- Twelfth grade math test scores are significantly lower in HSCS (-1.51; $p < 0.05$).
- HSCS significantly decreases college attendance (OR = 0.82 $p < 0.05$)
- Black females become more likely to attend college (OR = 1.74; $p < 0.05$) and the reduced likelihood for Black males becomes insignificant when 12th grade math tests scores and suspensions are considered

HIGH SCHOOL LONGITUDINAL STUDY: 2009

Did not include the facilities checklist in data collection unlike its predecessor, the ELS 2002:

- Built environment
- Security and safety procedures
- Technological infrastructure of schools
- Aspects and levels of social disorder

NSF Grants - Social Control

NSF-EEC #1619843 (\$617,202), “Race-Gender Trajectories in Engineering: The Role of Social Control across Neighborhood and School Contexts.”

NSF-EHR #1800199 (\$299,990), “Assessing Social Control in Charter and Traditional Schools via Merged Data to Broaden the Participation of Race-Gender Groups in STEM.”

NSF-EEC # 1833161 (\$99,985), “Supplement to Race-Gender Trajectories in Engineering: The Role of Social Control across Neighborhood and School Contexts.”

Improving federal data for social control research

Data harmonization of several NCES datasets to explore questions that currently cannot be investigated through a singular data structure, including:

- The High School Longitudinal Survey (HSLS09)
- School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS)
- Fast Response Survey System (#106) School Safety and Discipline Survey
- Common Core of Data (CCD)

INSTITUTE IN CRITICAL QUANTITATIVE, COMPUTATIONAL, AND MIXED METHODOLOGIES

Johns Hopkins University

Vanderbilt University

The University of Pennsylvania



NSF #ECR-EHR 1937687/1937490/1937391, Spencer Foundation #202000127, and William T. Grant Foundation #190932

HOW CAN RESEARCHERS EXAMINE THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF RACE WITH LONGITUDINAL STUDIES THAT FAIL TO ASK PARTICIPANTS ABOUT IT?

Race/ethnicity, as a category

Processes of racialization

Racial identity and beliefs

Experiences with race/racism

File Home Insert Draw Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Help ACROBAT

Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles Cells Editing Analysis Sensitivity

Calibri 10 A⁺ A⁻ B I U Font Color Background Color General Conditional Formatting Format as Table Cell Styles Insert Delete Format Sort & Filter Find & Select Analyze Data Sensitivity

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
96	M1ENGCON	M1 D01A Comparison of females' and males' abilities in English or language arts		P	"Males are much better" recoded as "Males are somewhat to much better" on					
97	M1MTHCOMP	M1 D01B Comparison of females' and males' abilities in math		P	"Males are much better" recoded as "Males are somewhat to much better" on					
98	M1SCCOMP	M1 D01C Comparison of females' and males' abilities in science		P						
99	M1TARDY	M1 D02A Student tardiness is a problem at this school		P						
00	M1STUABSENT	M1 D02B Student absenteeism is a problem at this school		P						
01	M1CUT	M1 D02C Student class cutting is a problem at this school		P						
02	M1TCHRAABSENT	M1 D02D Teacher absenteeism is a problem at this school		P	"Serious problem" recoded as "Moderate to serious problem" on the public us					
03	M1DROPOUT	M1 D02E Students dropping out is a problem at this school		P						
04	M1APATHY	M1 D02F Student apathy is a problem at this school		P						
05	M1INVOLVEMNT	M1 D02G Lack of parental involvement is a problem at this school		P						
06	M1UNPREPPROB	M1 D02H Students coming unprepared to learn is a problem at this school		P						
07	M1HEALTH	M1 D02I Poor student health is a problem at this school		P						
08	M1RESOURCES	M1 D02J Lack of teacher resources and materials is a problem at this school		P						
09	M1ABLRANGE	M1 D03A Teaching is limited by different academic abilities in the same class		P						
10	M1SESRRANGE	M1 D03B Teaching is limited by students with wide range of SES backgrounds		P						
11	M1LANGRRANGE	M1 D03C Teaching is limited by students with wide range of language backgrounds		P						
12	M1SPECNEED	M1 D03D Teaching is limited by students with special needs		P						
13	M1UNINTEREST	M1 D03E Teaching is limited by uninterested students		P						
14	M1MORALE	M1 D03F Teaching is limited by low morale among students		P						
15	M1DISRUPT	M1 D03G Teaching is limited by disruptive students		P						
16	M1PROFDEV	M1 D03H Teaching is limited by inadequate professional learning opportunities		P						
17	M1ADMSUPPORT	M1 D03I Teaching is limited by inadequate administrative support		P						
18	M1COMPUTER	M1 D03J Teaching is limited by shortage of computer hardware/software		P						
19	M1TECHSUPPRT	M1 D03K Teaching is limited by shortage of support for using computers		P						
20	M1BOOKS	M1 D03L Teaching is limited by shortage of textbooks for student use		P						
21	M1STUEQUIP	M1 D03M Teaching is limited by shortage of instructional equipment for students		P						
22	M1DEMONEQUIP	M1 D03N Teaching is limited by shortage of equipment for demonstrations		P						
23	M1FACILITIES	M1 D03O Teaching is limited by inadequate physical facilities		P						
24	M1RATIO	M1 D03P Teaching is limited by high student to teacher ratio		P						
25	M1PLANNING	M1 D03Q Teaching is limited by lack of planning time		P						
26	M1AUTONOMY	M1 D03R Teaching is limited by lack of autonomy in instructional decisions		P						
27	M1FAMSUPPORT	M1 D03S Teaching is limited by lack of parent/family support		P						
28	M1FAMILY	M1 D04A Amount a student can learn is primarily related to family background		P						

HIGH SCHOOL LONGITUDINAL STUDY 2009

FUTURE METRICS FOR EQUITY

- Facilities checklist should be implemented for all IES national longitudinal studies that collect individual level student data
 - A step further would include SSO techniques since the facilities checklist is but one snapshot in time
- Collect data on other dimensions of social control and justice
- National longitudinal studies should move beyond measures that reflect race as a category toward measures of:
 - Race as a process – “racialization”
 - Race/ethnic identity and beliefs
 - Individual experiences/perceptions of racism

THANKS AND QUESTIONS

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Published/Forthcoming (Articles Only)

- Johnson, Jr., O. and Jason Jabbari. Forthcoming. “The Racialized Interaction of School Suspension, Math Performance, and Math Self-Efficacy in Majority White Schools.” *Educational Forum*.
- Jabbari, Jason and O. Johnson Jr. 2021. “The Process of ‘Pushing Out’: Accumulated Disadvantage across School Punishment and Math Achievement Trajectories.” *Youth & Society*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0044118X211007175>.
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Under Review (Articles Only)

- Jabbari, Jason and O. Johnson Jr. “Multiplying Disadvantages in U.S. High Schools: An Intersectional Analysis of the Interactions among Punishment and Achievement Trajectories.”
- Johnson, Jr., O., H. Ibrahim and J. Jabbari. “The Infrastructure of Black Social Control: A Multi-Level Counterfactual Analysis of Surveillance, Punishment, and Educational Inequality.”
- Furtado, Karishma, Sarah Murphy, Jason Purnell, O. Johnson Jr., and Ross Brownson. “Learning to disengage: Racial disparities in discipline, social control in school, and voting activity.”
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SUPPLEMENTAL SLIDES

CARCERAL ECOSYSTEM

- Mass incarceration in the U.S. (Alexander 2010)
- Risk of incarceration is greatest in minoritized communities (Clear 2007)
- Odds of a police encounter appear greatest for youth in schools (Ferris 2015)
- Racial disparities in discipline, pushout, and referral are prominent (OCR 2014; Losen et al. 2015; Johnson et al. 2019)
- Disastrous consequences for equity in school outcomes and college entry (Johnson and Jabbari 2021; Jabbari and Johnson 2020a, 2021b; Ibrahim, Johnson, and Jabbari 2020)

Methodology

Creating the Treatment

- Used administrative reports of *surveillance* (metal detector and camera), *searches* (having random metal detector checks; random dog sniffs; random contraband sweeps; and drug testing), and, *security* (closing the campus for lunch; requiring uniforms; enforcing strict dress codes; requiring clear book bags; requiring identification badges for students) to create a school average.
- Based on this measure, high schools were segmented into thirds.
- The highest third (3,708 students) was operationalized as high-social control schools, while the lowest third (4709 students) was operationalized as low-social control schools (1 = high-social control school; 0 = low-social control school).
- Multiple imputation using chained equations (MICE) is used to address missing values of independent variables only

Methodology

Propensity Score Weighting

7 Step Method

- A propensity score was estimated based on the observed covariates of a specific treatment using generalized boosted regression models (GBM)
- An inverse probability treatment weight was created based on the propensity score
- Propensity score weights were multiplied by the necessary survey weights
- Checks were completed to ensure observed covariates were properly balanced
- Checks were completed to ensure normally distributed and adequately overlapped scores
- Weighted analyses of the specified treatment were completed
- Sensitivity analysis was performed to ensure that unobserved covariates were not confounders

Methodology - GBM

- Generalized boosted modeling (GBM) (see Drake 1993; Freedman and Berk 2008; McCaffrey, Ridgeway, and Morral 2005).
- GBM (see Drake 1993; Freedman and Berk 2008; McCaffrey, Ridgeway, and Morral 2005) utilizes automated, data adaptive modeling algorithms to “predict treatment assignment from a large number of pretreatment covariates while also allowing for flexible, non-linear relationships between the covariates and the propensity score” (p. 3).
- Generalized Boosting Models repeatedly fit many decision trees to improve the accuracy of the model. For each new tree in the model, a random subset of all the data is selected using the boosting method.
- Utilized the TWANG—Toolkit for Weighting and Analysis of Non-equivalent Groups—package (Ridgeway, McCaffrey, Morral, Burgette, & Griffin, 2014) in STATA for the estimation of the propensity score weights for the treatment.
- TWANG’s default settings were used, which include 1000 iterations, three-way interactions among covariates, a shrinkage value of 0.01 to yield a smooth fit, and analytic approximations for Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS) statistics.
- Mean effect sizes and max KS statistics were used to assess covariate balance. TWANG also provides the comparable sample sizes for both treatments—known as the effective sample size (ESS) (McCaffrey et al., 2005).

Variables	Treatment	Std.dev.	Control	Std.dev.	Std.diff.	p-value
Neighborhood Crime	2.85	0.41	2.90	0.34	-0.13	0.00
Neighborhood Safety	1.41	0.60	1.32	0.65	0.16	0.00
SES	-0.06	0.69	0.09	0.74	-0.20	0.00
Female	1.49	0.50	1.48	0.50	0.03	0.30
Black	0.24	0.43	0.06	0.23	0.52	0.00
Learning disability	0.12	0.32	0.12	0.32	0.00	0.89
English is 1 st Language	0.88	0.32	0.87	0.34	0.05	0.04
Hispanic	0.12	0.33	0.15	0.36	-0.09	0.00
Neighborhood Social Order	5.27	0.94	5.44	1.05	-0.17	0.00
Repeated Grade	0.13	0.34	0.09	0.28	0.13	0.00
Two parent household	0.27	0.44	0.23	0.42	0.09	0.00
Urban School Location	0.32	0.47	0.27	0.44	0.12	0.00
Neighborhood Crime	2.88	0.37	2.88	0.36	-0.02	0.57
Neighborhood Safety	1.35	0.57	1.34	0.56	0.02	0.54
SES	0.02	0.71	0.04	0.72	-0.02	0.41
Female	1.49	0.50	1.48	0.50	0.01	0.67
Black	0.14	0.35	0.12	0.32	0.06	0.07
Learning disability	0.12	0.32	0.12	0.32	0.00	0.94
English is 1 st Language	0.88	0.32	0.87	0.33	0.02	0.53
Hispanic	0.13	0.34	0.14	0.35	-0.03	0.34
Neighborhood Social Order	5.32	0.95	5.36	0.91	-0.04	0.21
Repeated Grade	0.11	0.31	0.10	0.30	0.03	0.26
Two parent household	0.24	0.43	0.24	0.43	0.01	0.83
Urban School Location	0.29	0.45	0.29	0.45	0.00	0.97

PSW Balance Statistics

Unweighted by Propensity Scores

Weighted by Propensity Scores

Sensitivity Results

<u>Removed Treatment Covariate</u>	<u>Model Type</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Sensitivity Results</u>	<u>Original Results</u>
Race: Black	Unconditional	Math Achievement (coefficient)	-2.70(0.63)***	-2.50(0.64)***
Race: Black	Unconditional	College Attendance (odds ratio)	0.67(0.09)**	0.67(0.09)**
Race: Hispanic	Unconditional	Math Achievement (coefficient)	-2.49(0.64)***	-2.50(0.64)***
Race: Hispanic	Unconditional	College Attendance (odds ratio)	0.67(0.09)**	0.67(0.09)**
Gender: Female	Unconditional	Math Achievement (coefficient)	-2.47(0.64)***	-2.50(0.64)***
Gender: Female	Unconditional	College Attendance (odds ratio)	0.67(0.09)**	0.67(0.09)**
SES Quintile	Unconditional	Math Achievement (coefficient)	-3.14(0.62)***	-2.50(0.64)***
SES Quintile	Unconditional	College Attendance (odds ratio)	0.57(0.07)***	0.67(0.09)**
Urban School Location	Unconditional	Math Achievement (coefficient)	-2.57(0.64)***	-2.50(0.64)***
Urban School Location	Unconditional	College Attendance (odds ratio)	0.67(0.09)**	0.67(0.09)**
Two Parent Household	Unconditional	Math Achievement (coefficient)	-2.51(0.64)***	-2.50(0.64)***
Two Parent Household	Unconditional	College Attendance (odds ratio)	0.67(0.09)**	0.67(0.09)**
High Parental College Expectations	Unconditional	Math Achievement (coefficient)	-2.55(0.64)***	-2.50(0.64)***
High Parental College Expectations	Unconditional	College Attendance (odds ratio)	0.67(0.09)**	0.67(0.09)**
8th Grade Performance	Unconditional	Math Achievement (coefficient)	-2.47(0.64)***	-2.50(0.64)***
8th Grade Performance	Unconditional	College Attendance (odds ratio)	0.68(0.09)**	0.67(0.09)**
8th Grade Behavior	Unconditional	Math Achievement (coefficient)	-2.54(0.64)***	-2.50(0.64)***
8th Grade Behavior	Unconditional	College Attendance (odds ratio)	0.64(0.08)**	0.67(0.09)**
8th Grade Math Course	Unconditional	Math Achievement (coefficient)	-2.76(0.64)***	-2.50(0.64)***
8th Grade Math Course	Unconditional	College Attendance (odds ratio)	0.66(0.09)**	0.67(0.09)**
8th Grade Math Grade	Unconditional	Math Achievement (coefficient)	-2.56(0.64)***	-2.50(0.64)***
8th Grade Math Grade	Unconditional	College Attendance (odds ratio)	0.68(0.09)**	0.67(0.09)**

Dependent Variables	
College Attendance	0.59(0.49)
12 th grade Math Test Scores	51.02 (10.10)
In-School Suspension	0.10(0.29)
Treatment	
High Social Control School	0.44(0.50)
Treatment Components	
Surveillance	0.48(0.56)
Searches	0.93(1.05)
Security	2.00(1.50)
Covariates	
School Social Order (centered)	15.04(6.62)
Student Behavior (centered)	5.02(2.19)
Student Achievement Ideology	4.83(1.16)
Peer Achievement Ideology	2.87(2.72)
Parent Belief in Students	2.46(0.66)
Teacher Belief in Students	1.70(0.81)
Black Males	0.06(0.25)
Black Females	0.06(0.25)

Descriptive Statistics

Fixed Effects	Model 1
High Social Control School	1.42(0.19)**
School Social Order	1.01(0.01)
Student Behavior	1.38(0.03)***
Student Achievement Ideology	0.95(0.05)
Peer Achievement Ideology	1.08(0.02)***
Parent Belief in Students	0.91(0.07)
Teacher Belief in Students	1.00(0.07)
Black Males	3.20(0.47)***
Black Females	1.99(0.36)***
Intercept	0.01(0.004)
Random Effects	
Random Intercept Variance	5.64e-34 (3.81e-34)

Note: Odds ratios followed by standard errors in parentheses.

* = $p < 0.05$; ** = $p < 0.01$; *** = $p < 0.001$

**Mixed Effects
Logistic Regression
Models
Predicting In-School
Suspension**

Variable list	Model 2	Model 3
Fixed Effects		
High Social Control School	-1.52(0.49)**	-1.36(0.48)**
School Social Order	-0.17(0.04)***	-0.17(0.04)***
Student Behavior	-0.70(0.06)***	-0.53(0.07)***
Student Achievement Ideology	0.04(0.13)	0.02(0.13)
Peer Achievement Ideology	-0.32(0.06)***	-0.29(0.06)***
Parent Belief in Students	0.28(0.07)	0.22(0.24)
Teacher Belief in Students	1.08(0.10)***	1.07(0.19)***
Black Males	-6.39(0.63)***	-5.84(0.62)***
Black Females	-7.84(0.56)***	-7.50(0.56)***
In-School Suspension		-4.95(0.49)***
Intercept	60.23(1.13)***	59.83(1.12)***
Random Effects		
Random Intercept Variance	1.20e-30 (7.05e-31)	1.30e-30 (3.78e-31)**
Residual Variance	88.99(1.88)***	87.02(1.87)***

Note: Odds ratios followed by standard errors in parentheses.

* = $p < 0.05$; ** = $p < 0.01$; *** = $p < 0.001$

**MIXED
EFFECTS
GENERALIZED
LINEAR
REGRESSION
MODELS
PREDICTING
MATH SCORES**

Mixed Effects Logistic Regression Models Predicting College Attendance

	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6	Model 7
Fixed Effects				
High Social Control School	0.82(0.08)*	0.84(0.08)	0.93(0.08)	0.94(0.08)
School Social Order	0.96(0.01)***	0.96(0.01)***	0.97(0.01)***	0.97(0.01)***
Student Behavior	0.82(0.01)***	0.84(0.01)***	0.86(0.02)***	0.88(0.02)***
Student Achievement Ideology	1.06(0.03)*	1.06(0.03)	1.07(0.04)	1.06(0.04)
Peer Achievement Ideology	0.92(0.01)***	0.93(0.01)***	0.94(0.01)***	0.94(0.01)***
Parent Belief in Students	1.22(0.06)***	1.21(0.06)***	1.23(0.07)***	1.22(0.07)***
Teacher Belief in Students	0.92(0.04)	0.92(0.04)	1.05(0.05)	1.05(0.05)
Black Males	0.47(0.07)***	0.52(0.07)***	0.86(0.14)	0.90(0.15)
Black Females	0.74(0.10)*	0.79(0.11)	1.74(0.24)***	1.78(0.25)***
In-School Suspension		0.37(0.05)***		0.56(0.07)***
12 th Grade Math Scores			1.12(.004)***	1.12(.004)***
Intercept	5.58(1.27)***	5.23(1.21)***	2.46(0.58)***	2.39(0.57)***
Random Effects				
Random Intercept Variance	6.52e-35 (3.70e-35)	5.27e-35 (5.69e-35)	3.54e-35 (3.64e-35)	6.63e-35 (5.19e-35)