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Applied Statistical Analysis II

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REPLICATION STUDY

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Replication study

Public Attitudes toward Young Immigrant Men

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American Political Science Review, Page 1 of 6

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Letter

Public Attitudes toward Young Immigrant Men

DALSTON G. WARD *ETH Zurich*

Young men often make up a large share of newly arriving immigrant populations. How this impacts attitudes is unclear: young men have the potential to make substantial economic contributions, meaning attitudes toward them may be more favorable. However, young men may be seen as security and cultural threats, exacerbating anti-immigrant attitudes. I conduct a conjoint experiment on a sample of 2,100 Germans, asking them to evaluate groups of immigrants with randomly varying shares of young men. The results show that groups of immigrants with a large share of young men receive substantially less support. Further tests reveal that respondents also perceive of these groups as likely to pose security and cultural threats; there is no evidence that young men are viewed as having high economic potential. These results have implications for the importance of economic, cultural, and security concerns in underpinning attitudes toward immigrants.

Explaining The Original Study

Young men often make up a large share of newly arriving immigrant populations. How this impacts attitudes is unclear: young men have the potential to make substantial economic contributions, meaning attitudes toward them may be more favorable. However, young men may be seen as security and cultural threats, exacerbating anti-immigrant attitudes. The author conducts a conjoint experiment on a sample of 2,100 Germans, The results show that groups of immigrants with a large share of young men receive substantially less support. respondents also perceive of these groups as likely to pose security and cultural threats; there is no evidence that young men are viewed as having high economic potential.

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A central focus of the public discourse about the European refugee crisis has been the large share of young men among the asylum seekers. Media outlets have written numerous stories depicting them as a problem, highlighting their aggressive behavior¹ and their need to be taught European gender norms.² Stories even have titles as blunt as “Abnormal number of young men a problem for Sweden.”³ Politicians have been quick to politicize these young men. Geert Wilders, leader of the anti-immigrant Party for Freedom in the Netherlands, said “Masses of young men in their twenties...[are]...an invasion that threatens our prosperity, our security, our culture and identity.”⁴ The head of the Alternative for Germany in Berlin said there are “...increasing problems with these so-called groups of young men.”⁵

To what extent does this reflect the real fears of the

potential, which has been shown to positively affect attitudes toward asylum seekers (Bansak, Hainmueller, and Hangartner 2016). In demographically ailing European societies, these young men can fill labor shortages and are likely to burden the welfare state less than women and older immigrants—countering an important driver of anti-immigrant attitudes (Fietkau and Hansen 2018).

However, other scholarly work suggests that we should see weak public support for young immigrant men. First, young immigrant men may be seen as posing a security threat. These concerns are known drivers of anti-immigration attitudes (Erisen and Kentmen-Cin 2017; Huysmans 2006; Lahav and Courtemanche 2012) and include fears of terrorism, sexual assault, theft, and other violence. Second, host communities may perceive that

Explaining The Original Study

Details of the original study

- The experiment was conducted in Germany because it received the most asylum seekers in 2015 and 2016.
- The survey was conducted in December 2016 with 2030 German participants.
- The survey aimed to understand if the respondents were willing to have immigrant men in their community and whether they perceived immigrant men as having economic potential, posing security threats, or posing cultural threats.
- Each question had a seven-point scale.

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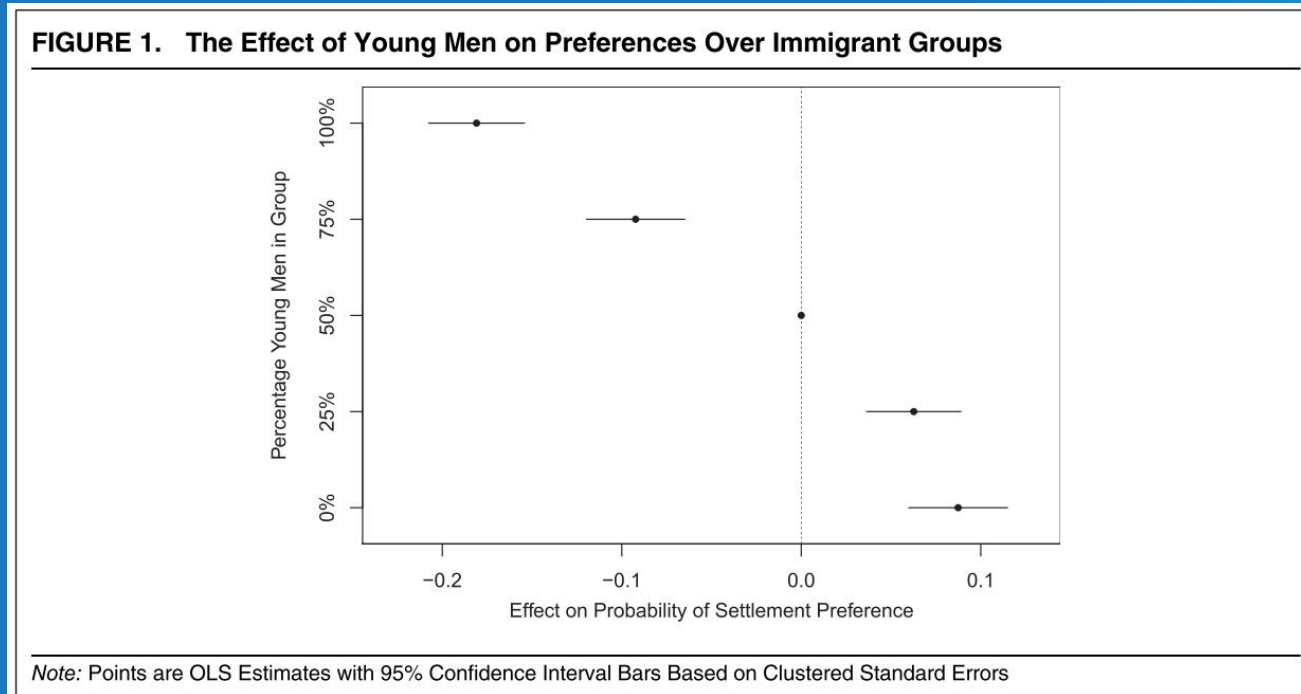
To what extent does this reflect the real fears of the

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However, other scholarly work suggests that we should see weak public support for young immigrant men. First, young immigrant men may be seen as posing a security threat. These concerns are known drivers of anti-immigration attitudes (Erisen and Kentmen-Cin 2017; Huysmans 2006; Lahav and Courtemanche 2012) and include fears of terrorism, sexual assault, theft, and other violence. Second, host communities may perceive that

Explaining The Original Study

Example of outputs of the study



More young men a group has, the less likely they are to be chosen for settlement.

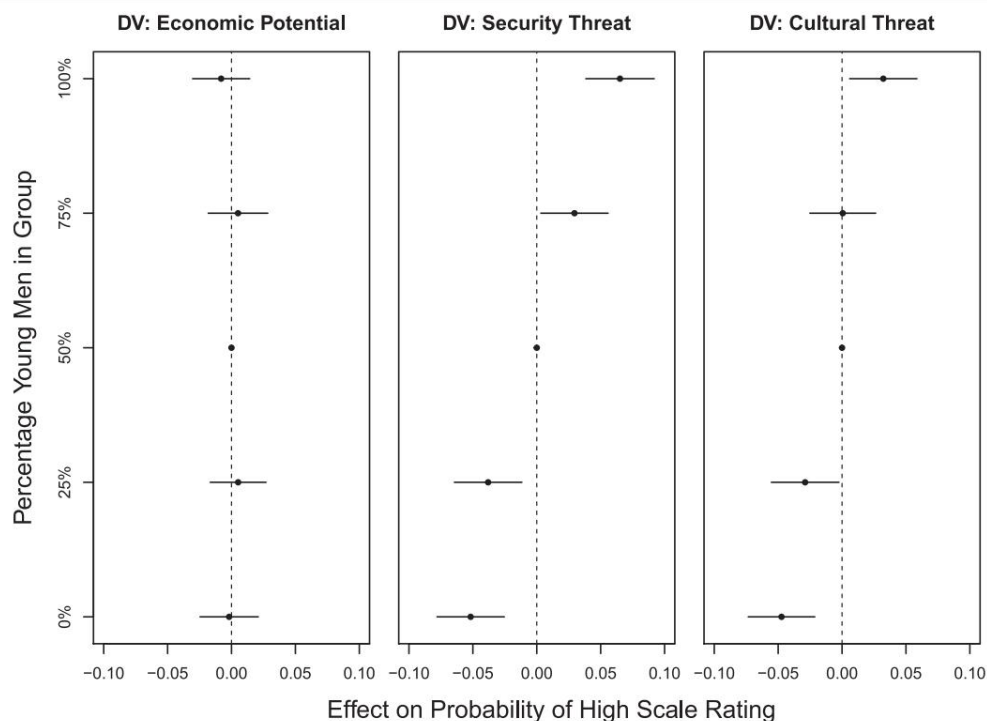
- For example, a group with no young men has an estimated preference premium of 8.67 percentage points. But for a group with 25% young men, the premium is only 6.3 percentage points. On the other hand, groups with over 50% young men face a penalty in their likelihood of being selected. When young men make up three-fourths of the group, the penalty is 9.2 percentage points, and for a group entirely composed of young men, the penalty is 18.1 percentage points.

Explaining The Original Study

Details of the original study

The impact of young men on economic potential is not significant, but their impact on security and cultural threats shows a positive trend.

FIGURE 2. The Effect of Young Men on Group Evaluations



Note: Points are OLS Estimates with 95% Confidence Interval Bars Based on Clustered Standard Errors

In this figure, the author used weighted OLS regression to explore three explanations for attitudes: Economic Potential, Security Threat, and Cultural Threat.

The impact of young men on Economic Potential was not significant, indicating that young immigrant men are not seen as having higher economic potential compared to other immigrants.

The effect of young men on Security Threat showed a positive trend, suggesting that as the proportion of young men in immigrant groups increases, the likelihood of the group being perceived as a high security threat also increases.

As the number of young men in a group increases, the perception of Cultural Threat also increases.

This indicates that non-economic factors play a crucial role in shaping respondent evaluations of immigrant groups.

Explaining The Original Study Data

This data has 17088 observations and 24 variables

R Global Environment	
Data	
comp_mod	Large lm (15 elements, 5.8 MB)
culture_mod	Large lm (15 elements, 5.6 MB)
culture_modNW	Large lm (14 elements, 5.4 MB)
culture_vcov	num [1:8, 1:8] 1.99e-04 -7.11e-05 -6.8...
culture_vcovNW	num [1:8, 1:8] 1.61e-04 -5.44e-05 -5.2...
data	17088 obs. of 24 variables
datw	16808 obs. of 24 variables

id	gender	state	edu	edu2	age	ps_weights	duration_seconds	task_number	settle_binary	security	security_binary	culture	culture_binary	jobs
1	Female	Berlin	Intermediate school-leaving certificate	Medium	23	1.2622403	234	1	1	3	0	2	1	2
1	Female	Berlin	Intermediate school-leaving certificate	Medium	23	1.2622403	234	1	0	5	1	2	1	5
1	Female	Berlin	Intermediate school-leaving certificate	Medium	23	1.2622403	234	2	1	5	1	3	1	4
1	Female	Berlin	Intermediate school-leaving certificate	Medium	23	1.2622403	234	2	0	4	0	2	1	5
1	Female	Berlin	Intermediate school-leaving certificate	Medium	23	1.2622403	234	3	1	3	0	5	0	3
1	Female	Berlin	Intermediate school-leaving certificate	Medium	23	1.2622403	234	3	0	4	0	3	1	3
1	Female	Berlin	Intermediate school-leaving certificate	Medium	23	1.2622403	234	4	1	4	0	5	0	2
1	Female	Berlin	Intermediate school-leaving certificate	Medium	23	1.2622403	234	4	0	5	1	3	1	5
2	Female	Thuringen	Still in school	Low	19	1.9670118	312	1	1	1	0	4	0	1
2	Female	Thuringen	Still in school	Low	19	1.9670118	312	1	0	4	0	4	0	4
2	Female	Thuringen	Still in school	Low	19	1.9670118	312	2	1	2	0	4	0	2
2	Female	Thuringen	Still in school	Low	19	1.9670118	312	2	0	4	0	4	0	4
2	Female	Thuringen	Still in school	Low	19	1.9670118	312	3	1	2	0	4	0	2
2	Female	Thuringen	Still in school	Low	19	1.9670118	312	3	0	4	0	4	0	4
2	Female	Thuringen	Still in school	Low	19	1.9670118	312	4	1	1	0	4	0	1
2	Female	Thuringen	Still in school	Low	19	1.9670118	312	4	0	1	0	4	0	1
3	Male	Nordrhein-Westfalen	Degree in vocational education	Low	65	0.4364838	482	1	1	1	0	6	0	2

My Contribution

- For the paper, I conducted a re-analysis.
- I wanted to explore any differences between female and male respondents regarding the perceived threats posed by younger immigrant males.
- Upon analysis, I found that females were less willing to have young immigrant males living in their communities, and they were more likely to believe that young immigrant males posed threats to safety and culture.

My Contribution

I performed linear regression to fit the model, obtained coefficients and standard errors, and conducted a linear hypothesis test.

```
main <- lm(settle_binary ~ factor(group_edu) + men0 + men25 + men75 + men100, data = datw)
main_vcov <- cluster.vcov(main, datw[, "id"])
(main_coefs <- coeftest(main, main_vcov))
```

My Contribution

```
# Figure 2, Panel 1, and Table B.2, Model 1
job_mod <- lm( jobs_binary ~ factor(group_edu) + men0 + men25 + men75 + men100 , data = datw)
job_vcov <- cluster.vcov(job_mod, datw[, id])
(job_coef <- coeftest(job_mod, job_vcov))
linearHypothesis(job_mod, "men25 - men75", vcov = job_vcov)
linearHypothesis(job_mod, "men25 - men75", vcov = job_vcov)
linearHypothesis(job_mod, "men75 - men100", vcov = job_vcov)

# Figure 2, Panel 2, and Table B.2, Model 3
sec_mod <- lm(security_binary ~ factor(group_edu) + men0 + men25 + men75 + men100, data = datw)
sec_vcov <- cluster.vcov(sec_mod, datw[, id])
(sec_coef <- coeftest(sec_mod, sec_vcov))

# test differences between effects as mentioned in text
linearHypothesis(sec_mod, "men0 - men25 = 0", vcov = sec_vcov)
linearHypothesis(sec_mod, "men100 - men75 = 0", vcov = sec_vcov)

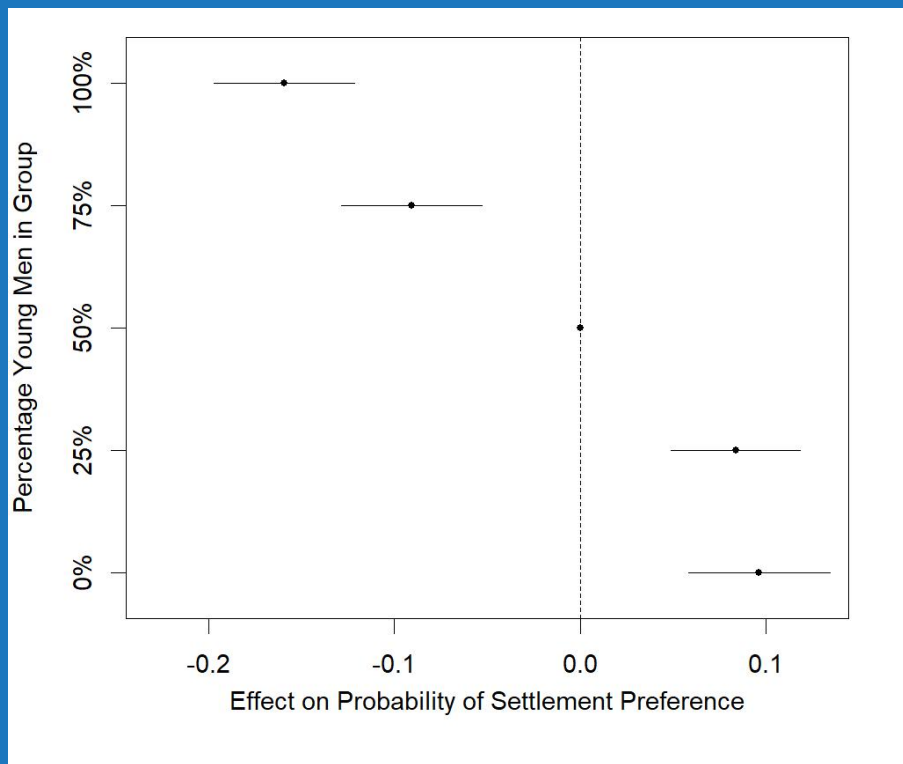
# Figure 2, Panel 3, and Table B.2, Model 5
culture_mod <- lm(culture_binary ~ factor(group_edu) + men0 + men25 + men75 + men100, data = datw)
culture_vcov <- cluster.vcov(culture_mod, datw[, id])
(culture_coef <- coeftest(culture_mod, culture_vcov))

# test differences between effects as mentioned in text
linearHypothesis(culture_mod, "men0 - men25", vcov = culture_vcov)
linearHypothesis(culture_mod, "men25 - men75", vcov = culture_vcov)
linearHypothesis(culture_mod, "men75 - men100", vcov = culture_vcov)
```

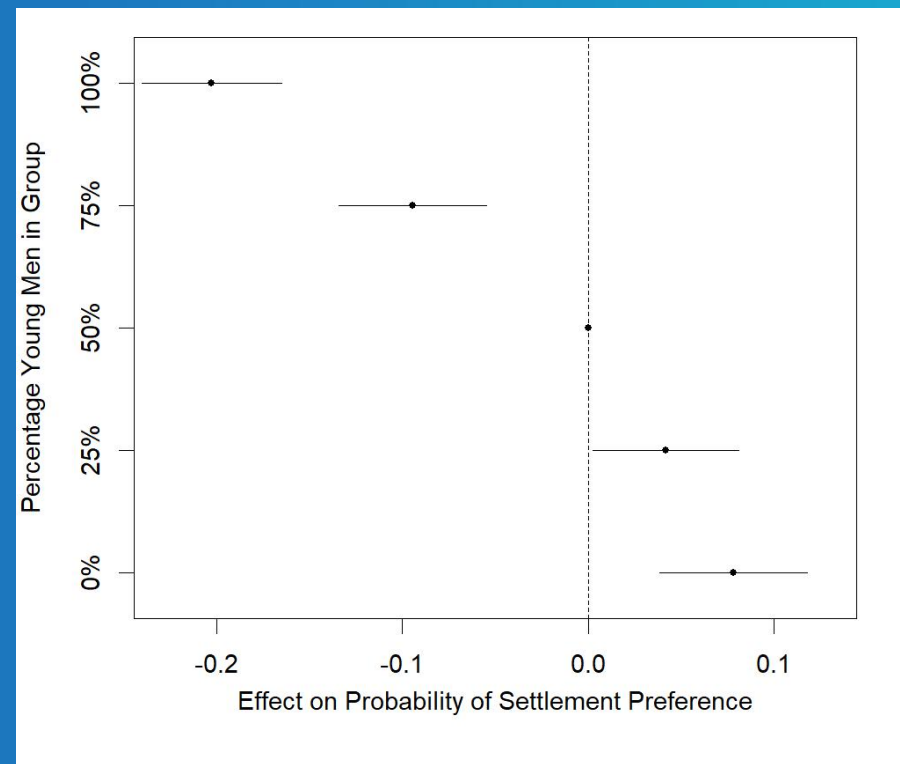
Fit a linear regression model to analyze the relationship between various predictive factors and results, estimate coefficients, calculate standard error, and perform hypothesis testing to compare the impact of different predictive factors on the results.

My Contribution

Male respondents



Famale respondents

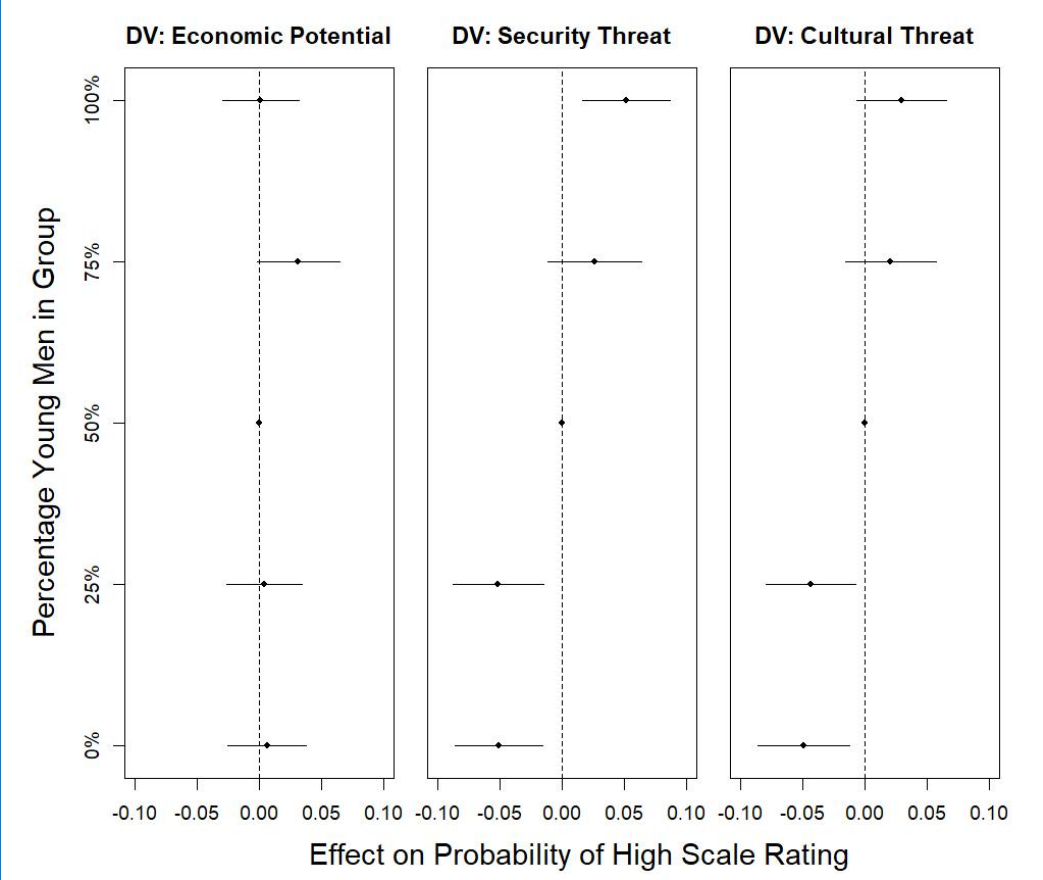


Compared to men, women are less inclined to accept immigrant men settling in the community.

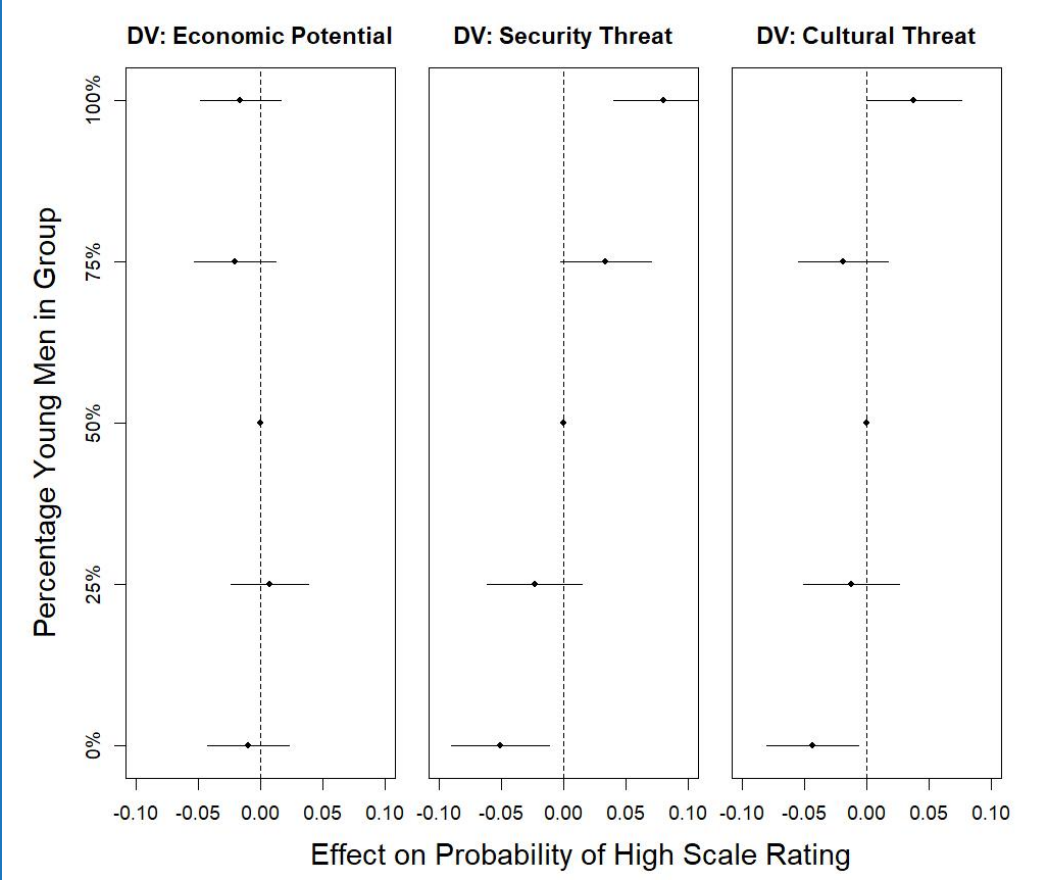
- For instance, the preference gap for groups lacking young males is 7.8 percentage points for women and 9.6 percentage points for men. However, when considering 25% young men, the gap for women reduces to 4.2 percentage points, while for men, it remains at 8.4 percentage points. On the contrary, over 50% of young men living in the community also showed that female respondents were less willing to accept it than men

My Contribution

Male respondents



Famale respondents



Female respondents showed stronger feedback than male respondents regarding the potential security and cultural threats that young male immigrants may bring.

Thank you