Collaboration or Competition? Experimental Evidence for Coalition Heuristic

Ida B. Hjermitslev, Department of Government, University of Vienna

ONLINE APPENDIX

A Descriptive statistics of sample demographics

Gender	
Female	44 %
Male	56 %
Age	
10 - 20	3 %
20 - 30	14 %
30 - 40	8 %
40 - 50	15 %
50 - 60	27 %
60 - 70	18 %
70 - 80	13 %
80 - 90	3 %
90 - 100	0 %
Education	
Primary school ($<$9 years)	3 %
Primary school (9-10 years)	11 %
Secondary/highschool	13 %
Vocational training	37 %
Bachelors degree (3-4 years)	17 %
College ($<$3 years)	8 %
Masters degree (5+ years)	10 %
Other	1 %
Vote recall	
Social Democrats	28 %
Radikale Venstre	4 %
Conservatives	4 %
Socialist People's Party	5%
Liberal Alliance	4 %
Danish People's Party	15 %
Liberals	19 %
Unity List	10 %
The Alternative	2 %
Abstained	6 %
Don't recall	2 %

Table A1: Socio-demographic composition of the sample: gender, age, education, and vote choice at the 2015 parliamentary election

B Study 1: Treatment material

Imagine that there has just been a parliamentary election. The party Liberals now announces that they [**have already formed/cannot possibly form**] a government where [**Danish People's Party/Liberal Alliance/Radical Liberals/the Alternative**] is also included.

You will now get a number of questions about the parties' policy positions. When answering them, you should as far as possible imagine that the situation you just read about was real. Based on the new situation, where will you place the following parties on a scale from "left" to "right"?

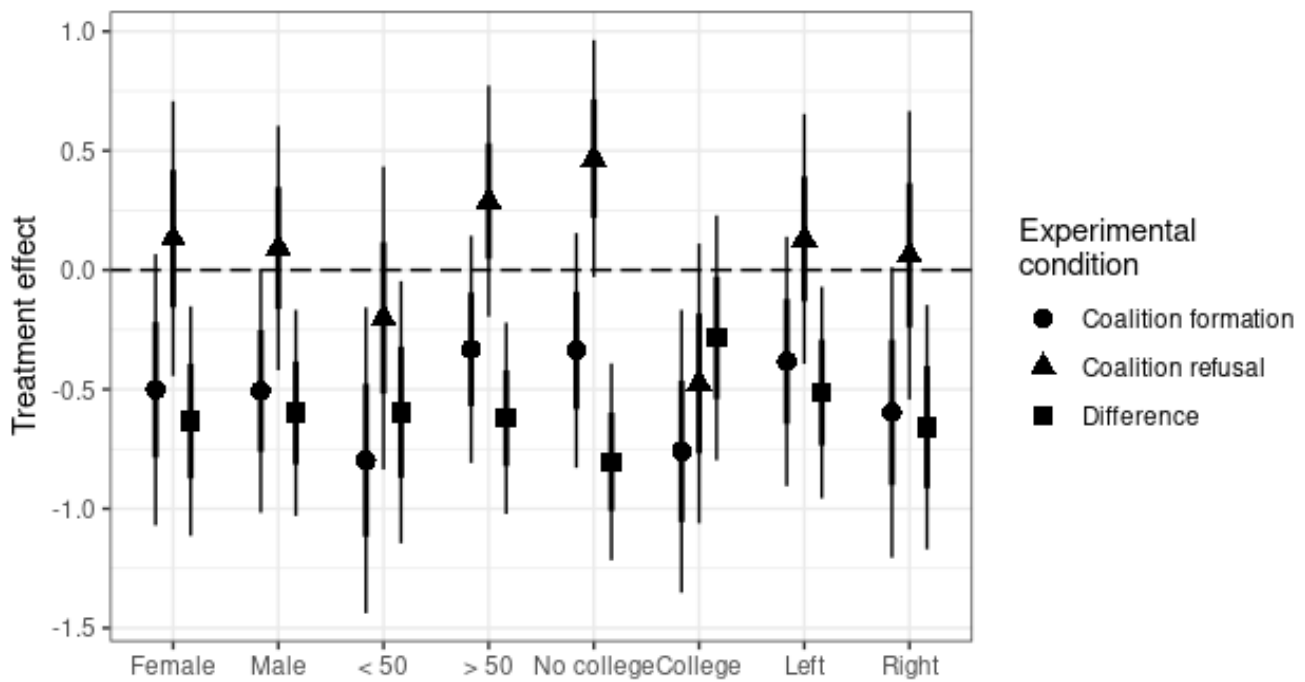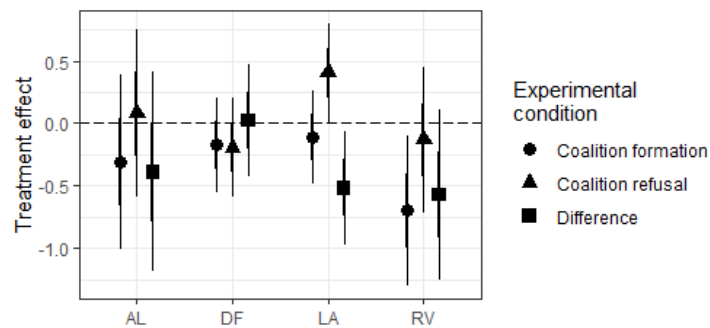# C Study 1: Treatment effects by socio-demographics

Figure C1: Treatment effects on perceived left/right distance between Liberals and partners for different demographic groups. Coefficient estimates shown with +/- 1 and 2 standard deviations.

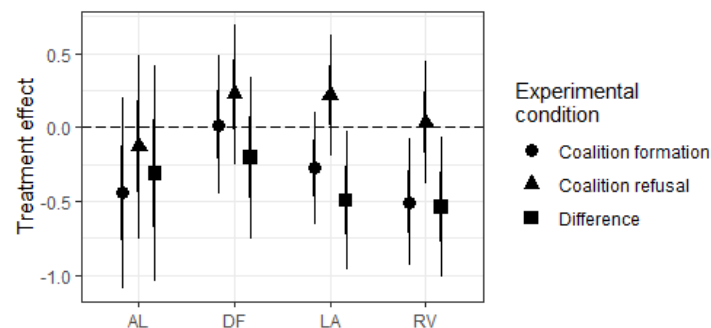# D   Study 1: Distance between Liberals and each potential coalition partner

	Formation	Refusal	Difference	95 % CI	p-value
Alternative (AL)	4.48	5.13	-0.64	(-1.41 : 0.12)	0.098
Danish People's Party (DF)	1.68	2.12	-0.44	(-0.91 : 0.03)	0.066
Liberal Alliance (LA)	1.32	1.61	-0.29	(-0.68 : 0.10)	0.149
Radical Liberals (RV)	2.36	2.90	-0.54	(-1.01 : -0.07)	0.026

Table D1: T-test for difference in mean perceived distance between Liberals (V) and each potential coalition partner on the general left-right dimension
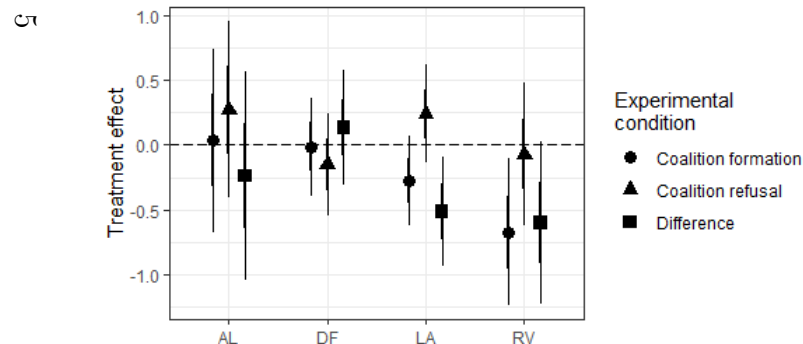
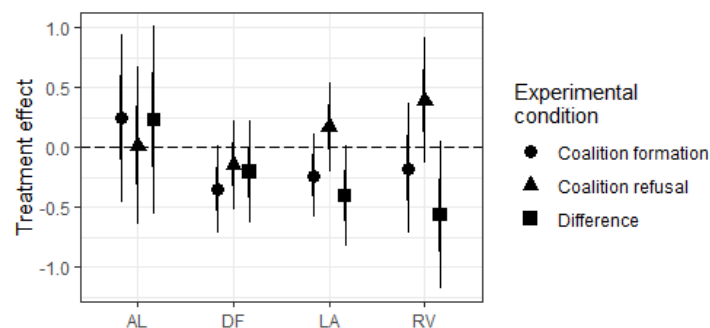# E   Study 1: Treatment effects on policy issues

(a) Some parties believe we accept too many **refugees** [0]. Others say we can easily accept more refugees [10].

(b) Some parties say we need to cut **public revenue and expenditure** [0]. Others say we must expect rising public spending and revenue in the future [10].

(c) Some parties suggest to maintain **law and order** with stricter penalties [0]. Other parties instead talk about preventing crime and treating criminals humanly [10].

(d) Some parties distinguish themselves by paying high attention on environmental considerations [0]. Others say that **environmental considerations** are getting out of hand [10].

Figure E1: Treatment effects on perceived distance between Liberals (V) and other parties on specific policy issues. AL=The Alternative, DF=Danish People's Party, LA=Liberal Alliance, RV=Radical Liberals. Coefficient estimates shown with +/- 1 and 2 standard deviations.

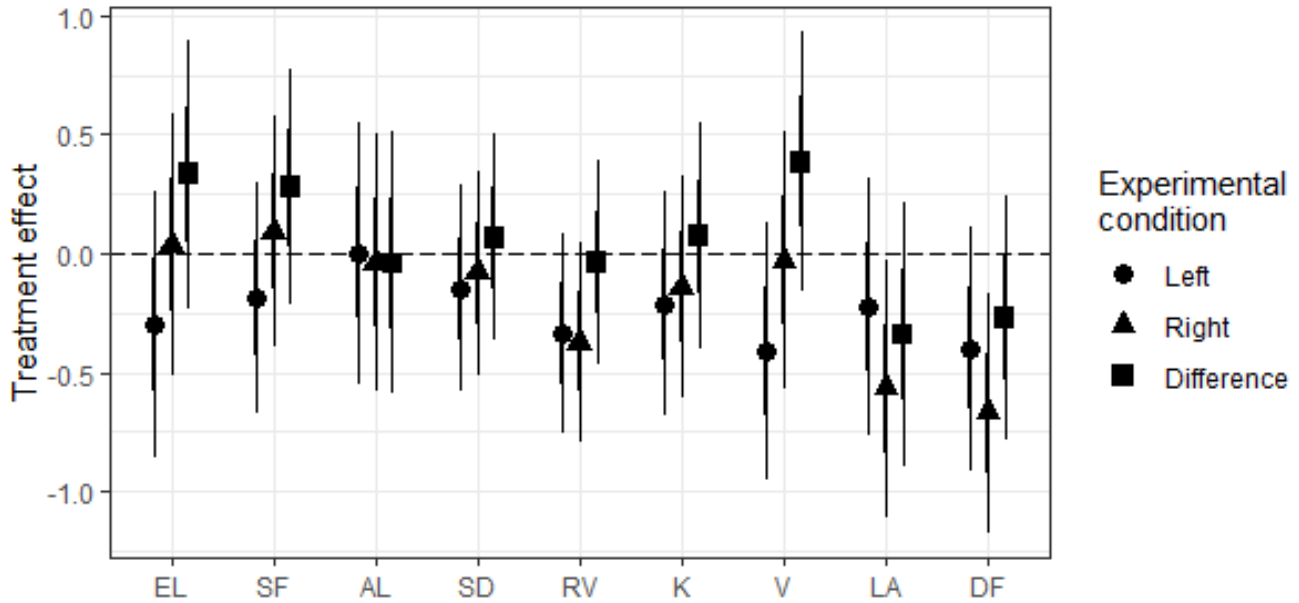# F   Study 1: Treatment effects on party placements

Figure F1: Effects of the coalition formation treatment on perceived position on the general left-right dimension. EL = Unity List, SF = Socialist People's Party, AL = The Alternative, SD = Social Democrats, RV = Radical Liberals, K = Conservatives, V = Liberals, LA = Liberal Alliance, DF = Danish People's Party. Coefficient estimates shown with +/- 1 and 2 standard deviations.

G   Study 2: Treatment material

Imagine that a new party, the Reform Party, is running in the next parliamentary elections. The Reform Party has not yet announced any specific policies, but the party is somewhere in the range of **[0 to SD placement/SD to 10]**. Also, imagine that the party Social Democrats announces that they **[have a strong wish/have absolutely no wish]** to form a coalition government with the Reform Party. If you had to take a guess, where would you place the Reform Party on a scale from "left" to "right"?

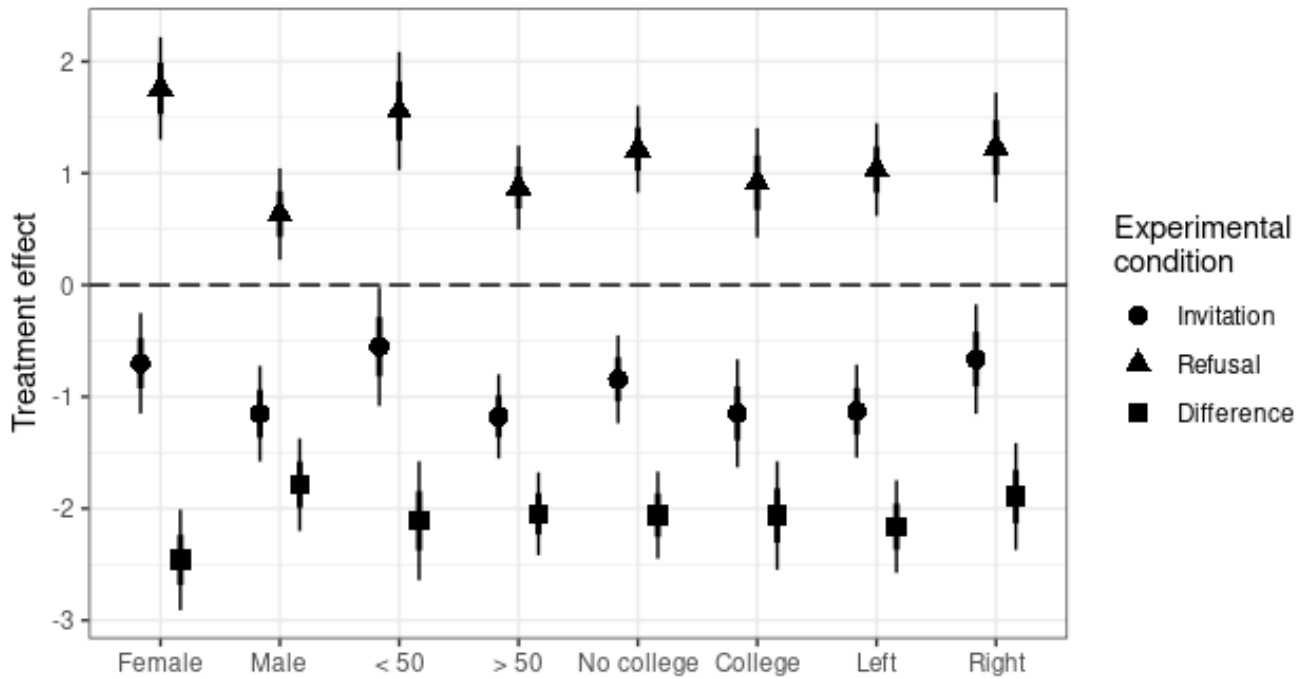# H   Study 2: Treatment effects by socio-demographics

Figure H1: Treatment effects on perceived left/right distance between Liberals and partners for different demographic groups. Coefficient estimates shown with +/- 1 and 2 standard deviations.

I Study 2: Average party placement

Direction	Treatment	Mean	Std. Dev.	Do not know	N
Left-wing party	Control	4.44	2.58	14 %	188
	Coalition invitation	4.31	1.80	15 %	206
	Coalition refusal	4.78	3.49	11 %	195
Right-wing party	Control	6.72	2.11	14 %	201
	Coalition invitation	5.51	1.85	11 %	187
	Coalition refusal	6.83	2.80	8 %	198

Table I1: Average placement of hypothetical party
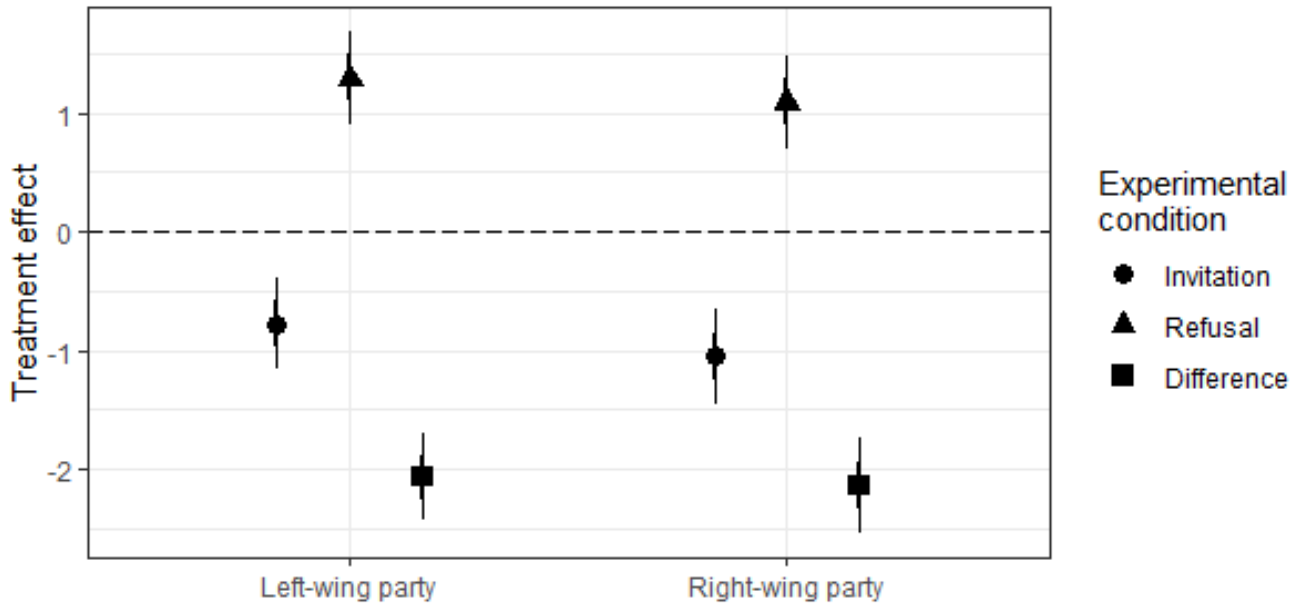
J Study 2: Robustness check

Figure J1: Treatment effects on perceived distance between the hypothetical Reform Party and the Social Democrats (SD). Participants who placed the Social Democrats below 3 or above 7 are excluded from analysis. Coefficient estimates shown with +/- 1 and 2 standard deviations.