Joshua Inwald

October 21, 2021

575 Final Project Prospectus

Final project format: presentation

Research question: Globally speaking, what types of people are more or less afraid of nuclear power? E.g. trends based on income, personality type, numeracy, etc.

* Is concern for nuclear power predicted by one’s general tendency to worry about other risks?
* At the country-level, is concern for nuclear power predicted by a country’s current use (vs not) of nuclear power for electricity? Does having had an in-country history of nuclear disaster affect its people’s concern for nuclear power?

Data overview: Interview data from 142 countries. Participants were asked about threat perception, both of distal (e.g. climate change) and proximate (e.g. occupational hazard) sources of threat. In addition to threat perception of various types of threats, other constructs of interest include numeracy, social trust, and social media use. Controls include a full suite of demographics (e.g. income, children, urban vs rural, gender, education, age, etc.)

Plan for statistical analysis: Using concern for nuclear power as the DV, figure out what best predicts support for nuclear power. The DV has three levels, +1 / 0 / -1 (it will help, no opinion, it will harm). I predict social trust and degree of generalized threat perception will be important predictors, so I’ll start models using those IVs. Once I’ve dialed in models that do a decent job predicting nuclear power support, I will then re-run models on subsets of countries (e.g. high vs low income) to understand if global patterns hold locally.

Additional information: Graphs of support for nuclear around the world, comparison tables of which predictors are most important for certain types of people (e.g. high education vs high income)

GitHub Repository: <https://github.com/JoshuaInwald/575FinalProject>

The data analytic scripts and supplemental materials for this project will be available at

<https://github.com/JoshuaInwald/575FinalProject>.

Thoughts from Mark

-Chances of models not converging in R / dataset too large

-Rules / techniques for deciding on variable inclusion in models