

# Does Fossil Rent Affect Opinions on Environment

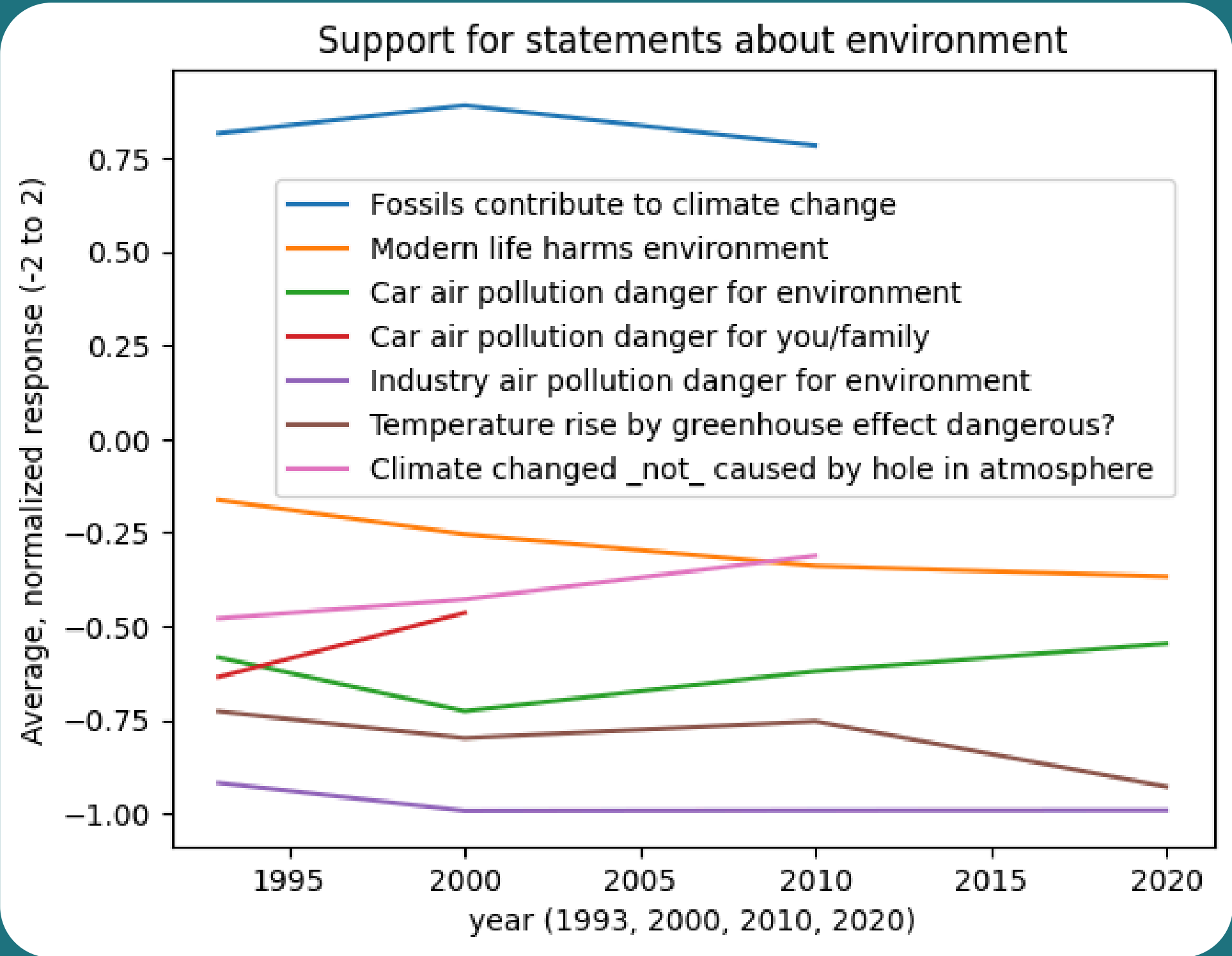
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## Motivation

Fossil industry spends money on propaganda for decades —  
Can we see how fossil industry affects public opinion?

## Data

- GDP per capita (World Bank)
- Rent from Fossil Fuels as share of GDP (World Bank)
- Environment-related attitudes + control variables, cross-country & longitudinal (World Value Survey, ISSP environment – likert scales 1-4, 1-5)



## Conclusion

- Key findings: The relationship between fossil fuel rent and public opinion about climate change appears to be more complex than a direct relationship
- Limitation: Weights for awareness, propaganda, and collective action scores were self-defined
- Limitation: Qestions from survey data not a perfect proxy to measure attitudes targeted by fossil fuel PR
- Limitation: Fossil fuel rent not a direct indicator for industry’s PR budget

## Hypotheses

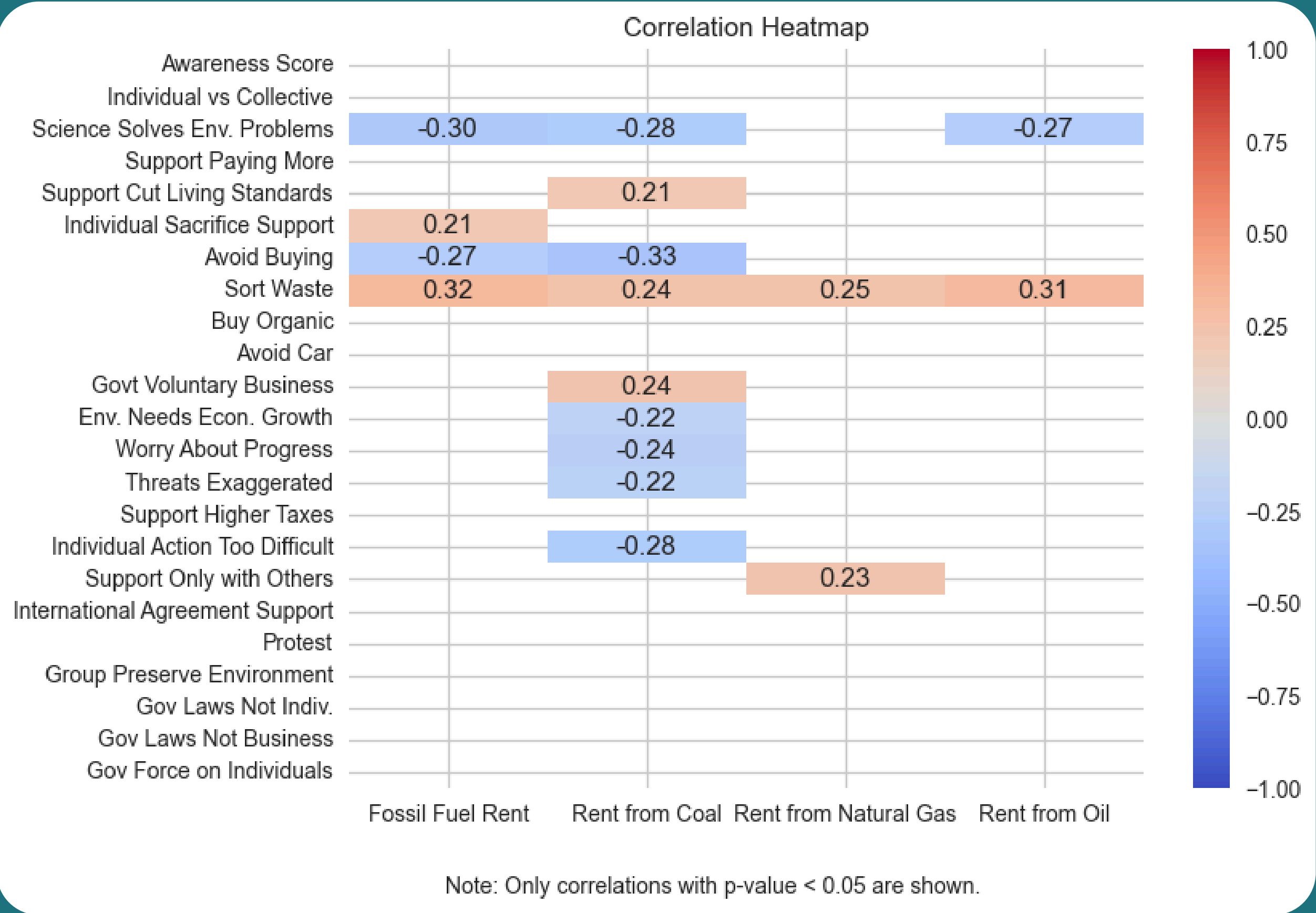
- Populations of countries with high fossil fuel production rent in proportion to GDP are less likely to be aware of climate change as a threat.
- Populations of countries with high fossil fuel production rent in proportion to GDP are more likely to support attitudes typically promoted by fossil industry PR.

## Methodology

- Select environment-related attitude responses, aggregate by country and survey year
- Check for correlations between environment-related attitudes and fossil rent.
- Control-Variable: GDP per Capita (logged)

## Results

- Hypothesis 1: No correlation in data (pearson, and a lot of other methods we checked, also controlled for GDP, etc.)
- Hypothesis 2: Most indicators don’t show correlation. The ones that do, show inconsistent trends.



Feedback



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