

Exploring the Shadows of Terror: The Influence of Terrorism on Public Opinion and Democratic Values*

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In an era where terrorism intersects with global politics, understanding its repercussions on public attitudes towards democracy is crucial. This paper replicates and extends the data analysis of effects of terrorism on public political opinion, considers various expressions of terrorism and a variety of research methodologies by analyzing findings from previous research. Our findings indicate that terrorism leads to an increase in outgroup hostility and a shift towards political conservatism, and observes variations in rally-'round-the-flag effects. These reactions are influenced by the nature of the terrorist threat and the sociopolitical context. Through this exploration, this paper contributes to the ongoing discourse on the implications of terrorism for democratic societies.

1 Introduction

As we entered the 21st century, terrorism has emerged as a central concern in global politics, influencing international relations and shaping the societal landscape across the world. This phenomenon has not only reshaped diplomatic engagements but also transformed societal dynamics on a global scale which prompts a critical examination of terrorism's broader implications, particularly its impact on public attitudes towards democracy. In an with regular occurrence of terrorist incidents, the impact of terrorism on public opinion has emerged as a critical area of research, bringing up attention to how incidents of terrorism reshape public attitudes towards outgroup hostility, political conservatism, and national unity.

Building upon this foundation, our study aims to replicate and extend the analysis by *Amélie Godefroidt* in 2022, published in American Journal of Political Science (**Godefroidt202?**),

*Code and data are available at: https://github.com/Sinanma/Terrorism_And_Citizens_Political_Attitudes. Replication on Social Science Reproduction platform available at:

which highlighted the significant impact of various forms of terrorism on public attitudes, from local insurgencies to global campaigns.

This paper delves into the complex dynamics of terrorism’s influence on public political opinion. It extends the discourse beyond conventional analysis to explore how various expressions of terrorism—ranging from domestic to international incidents—affect public attitudes, with a particular focus on outgroup hostility, political conservatism, and rally-’round-the-flag phenomena. Despite a growing body of research in this field, there remains a significant gap in understanding the holistic and nuanced effects of different forms of terrorism across diverse sociopolitical contexts. To address this gap, we systematically analyze and integrate findings from prior research, employing a variety of methodological approaches to offer a comprehensive overview of terrorism’s impact on public sentiment.

Our investigation reveals that terrorism indeed prompts significant shifts in public opinion, leading to an increase in outgroup hostility and a tilt towards political conservatism, alongside observable variations in national unity rallying effects. These reactions are found to be deeply influenced by the nature of the terrorist threat and the specific sociopolitical context in which they occur. The findings underscore the critical role of context in shaping public responses to terrorism, highlighting the importance of considering the diversity of terrorism expressions and the sociopolitical landscape when evaluating its impact.

This research contributes to the ongoing dialogue on the implications of terrorism for democratic societies by providing empirical evidence of terrorism’s subtle yet significant influence on public political attitudes. By shedding light on the conditions under which terrorism most profoundly affects public sentiment, this paper aims to inform policymakers and scholars alike, guiding the development of strategies that bolster democratic resilience in the face of terror. This paper is organized as follows: an overview of the methodological framework used in our analysis, a presentation of the findings, a discussion contextualizing these results within the broader implications for democracy, and concluding remarks that suggest directions for future research and policy considerations.

2 Data

2.1 Source

Our study is based on a detailed examination by Amélie Godefroidt published in 2022 in the *American Journal of Political Science*. This important research looks into how terrorism affects what people think about democracy and politics, using a wide range of examples from small local attacks to large international ones. We aim to do more research based on Godefroidt’s work, using her collection of data from 241 papers, which cover 326 studies and provide 1,733 measurements of how terrorism influences people’s political views. This collection of information, gathered through careful research and organization, is the main resource for our study as we explore the complex effects of terrorism in different settings around the world.

2.2 Methodology

Our approach to expanding on the original study involves a detailed process known as meta-analysis. This means we take a closer look at a bunch of studies already done on how terrorism changes people's opinions and combine their results to get a clearer picture. Following the steps outlined by Godefroidt, we gather, sort out, and examine data from various sources, focusing on 1,733 data points that show the relationship between terrorism and public opinion. We make sure all these points can be compared fairly by converting them into a standard format and adjusting them so they all point in the same direction. This makes our analysis strong and trustworthy. We also add new studies to the mix and use more sophisticated statistical methods to handle the data better, aiming to deepen our understanding of terrorism's impact on how people feel about democracy, strangers, and political beliefs in different parts of the world.

Some of our data is of penguins (**?@fig-bills**), from (**palmerpenguins?**).

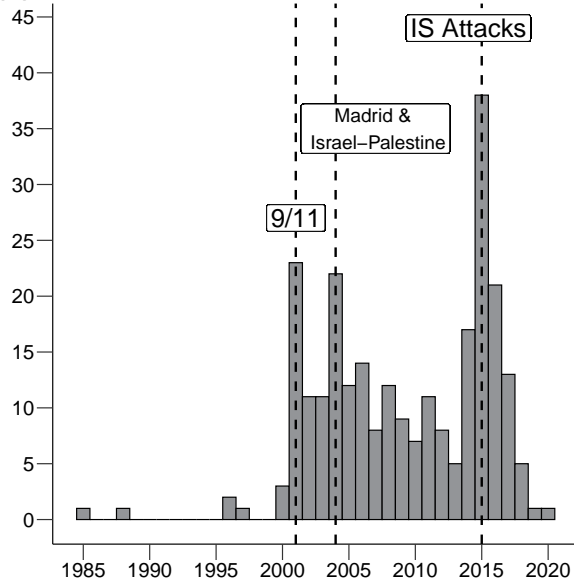
Talk more about it.

And also planes (**?@fig-planes**). (You can change the height and width, but don't worry about doing that until you have finished every other aspect of the paper - Quarto will try to make it look nice and the defaults usually work well once you have enough text.)

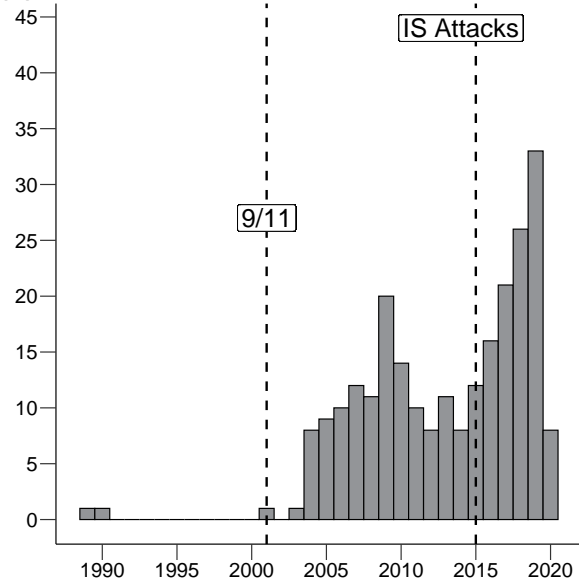
Talk way more about it.

3 Results

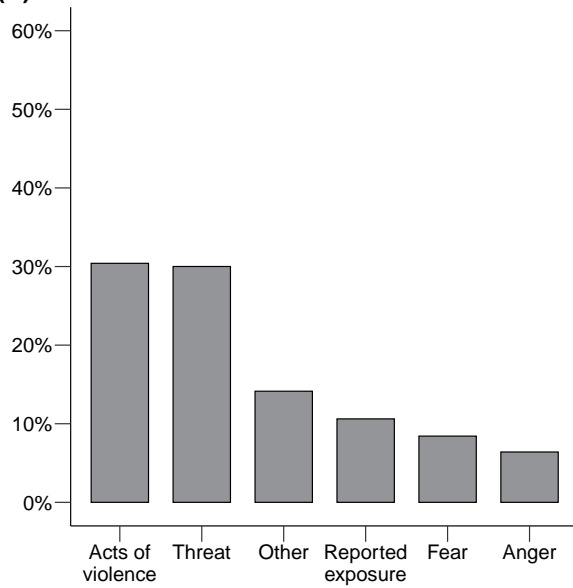
(A) Year of Data Collection



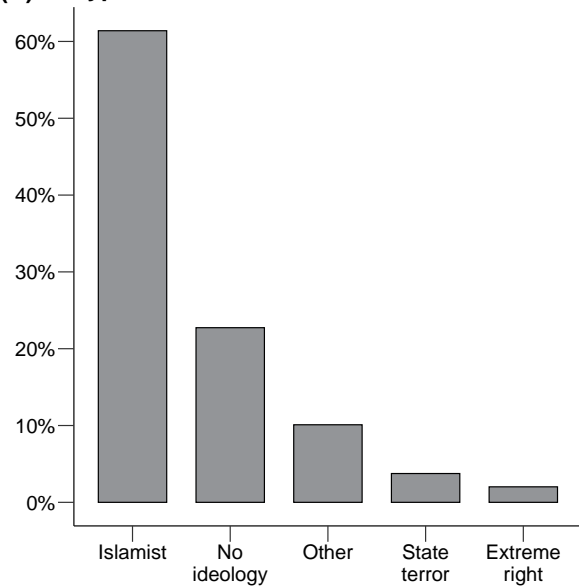
(B) Year of Publication



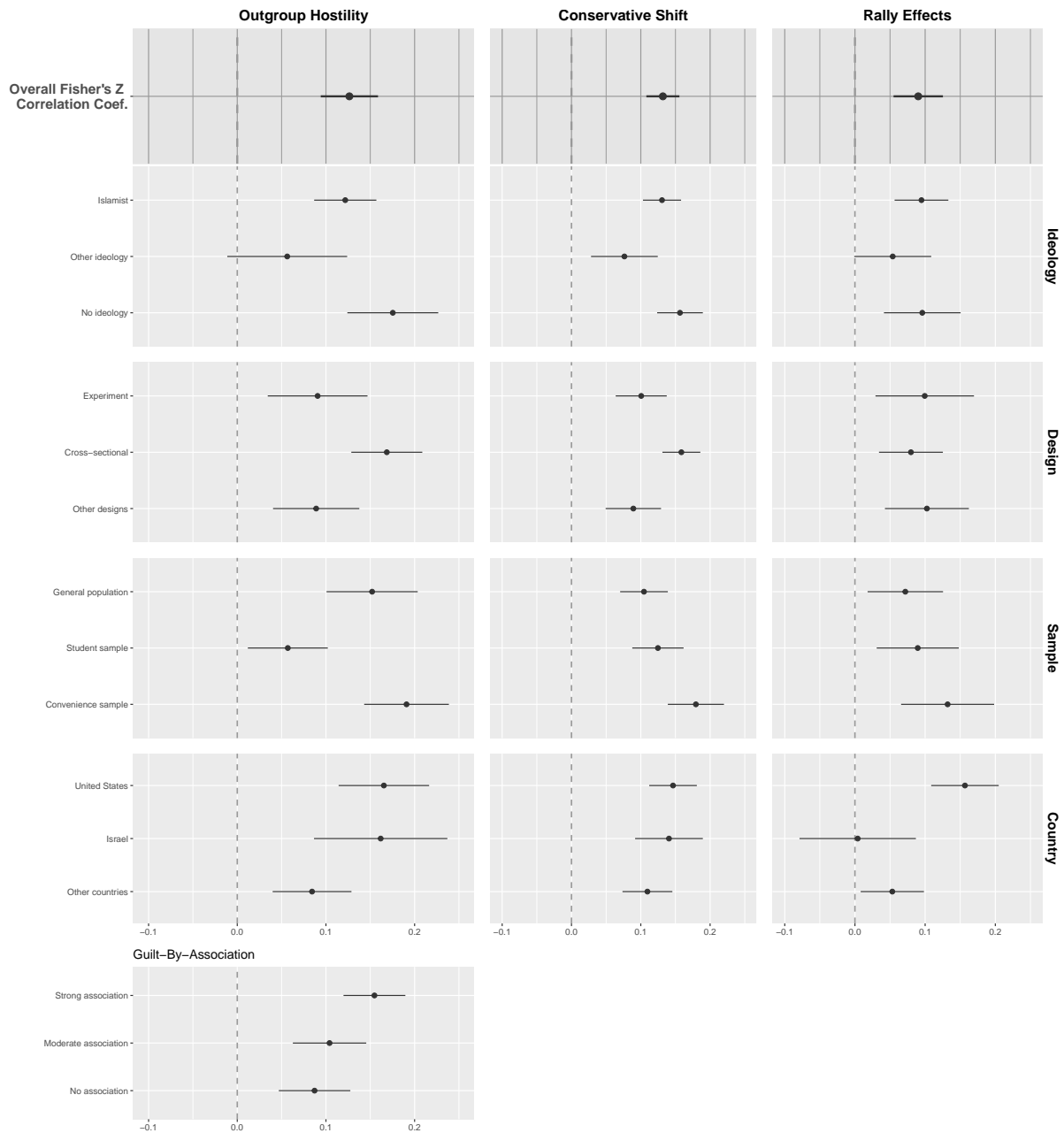
(C) Terrorism Measures



(D) Type of Terrorism



Another figure



4 Model

The goal of our modelling strategy is twofold. Firstly,...

Here we briefly describe the Bayesian analysis model used to investigate... Background details

Table 1: Explanatory models of flight time based on wing width and wing length

and diagnostics are included in Appendix B.

4.1 Model set-up

Define y_i as the number of seconds that the plane remained aloft. Then β_i is the wing width and γ_i is the wing length, both measured in millimeters.

$$y_i | \mu_i, \sigma \sim \text{Normal}(\mu_i, \sigma) \quad (1)$$

$$\mu_i = \alpha + \beta_i + \gamma_i \quad (2)$$

$$\alpha \sim \text{Normal}(0, 2.5) \quad (3)$$

$$\beta \sim \text{Normal}(0, 2.5) \quad (4)$$

$$\gamma \sim \text{Normal}(0, 2.5) \quad (5)$$

$$\sigma \sim \text{Exponential}(1) \quad (6)$$

We run the model in R (R Core Team 2022) using the `rstanarm` package of (`rstanarm?`). We use the default priors from `rstanarm`.

4.1.1 Model justification

We expect a positive relationship between the size of the wings and time spent aloft. In particular...

We can use maths by including latex between dollar signs, for instance θ .

5 Results

Our results are summarized in Table 1.

6 Discussion

6.1 First discussion point

If my paper were 10 pages, then should be be at least 2.5 pages. The discussion is a chance to show off what you know and what you learnt from all this.

6.2 Second discussion point

6.3 Third discussion point

6.4 Weaknesses and next steps

Weaknesses and next steps should also be included.

Appendix

A Additional data details

B Model details

B.1 Posterior predictive check

In `?@fig-ppcheckandposteriorvsprior-1` we implement a posterior predictive check. This shows...

In `?@fig-ppcheckandposteriorvsprior-2` we compare the posterior with the prior. This shows...

Examining how the model fits, and is affected
by, the data

B.2 Diagnostics

`?@fig-stanareyouokay-1` is a trace plot. It shows... This suggests...

`?@fig-stanareyouokay-2` is a Rhat plot. It shows... This suggests...

Checking the convergence of the MCMC algo-
rithm

References

R Core Team. 2022. *R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing*. Vienna, Austria: R Foundation for Statistical Computing. <https://www.R-project.org/>.