

A Comment on ‘Instrumentally Inclusive: The Political Psychology of Homonationalism’ (Turnbull-Dugarte and López Ortega (2024)).

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Abstract

Turnbull-Dugarte and López Ortega (2024) argue that increasing exposure to sexually conservative ethnic out-groups causes an instrumental increase in support for LGBT+ rights by those who are pre-disposed to disfavor the ethnic out-group. The paper presents results from two related experiments, one conducted in the UK and a follow up in Spain, where respondents were randomly assigned to read vignettes about anti-LGBT+ protests, and the identity of the protesters was varied. This comment outlines a series of concerns with the paper, related to idiosyncratic and ad hoc data analysis choices. The authors use weights (of undisclosed origin) in the second study but not in the first, and inconsistently use robust standard errors throughout. These choices create a pattern of statistically significant results consistent with their theory, a pattern that disappears when either choice is varied. Additional analyses show that, rather than supporting their theory, the second experiment likely contradicts it.