

The Global Status of Transgender Rights: Does a Proportionate Number of Women in National Parliaments Have an Impact?

Emma Huizenga

Department of Political Science, Michigan State University

Methods

- Given that my confounding variables were observed and influencing both treatment and outcome, I decided to use **weighting** to balance the covariates between the treated and control groups so that they would be independent of potential outcomes
- By giving more weight to observations that are **not** “doing what they are supposed to do”, it ensures that the estimated treatment effect is not confounded by differences in the observed covariates
- The estimand for weighting is the **ATE**

Assumptions

Conditional ignorability

- After weighting, I regressed treatment on observed confounders
- The p-values for each confounder were large and insignificant, indicating that they were not affecting treatment status after weighting

Common support (positivity)

- Religiosity does violate common support, but no other confounders did

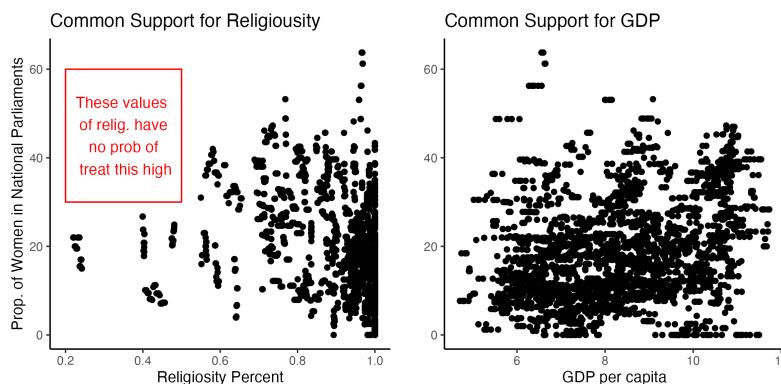


Figure 2. Common Support plots

Overview

Transgender rights is a marginally studied topic, especially when it comes to understanding the global landscape of such individuals. Previous research pertaining to transgender rights only provides a glimpse of the experiences and challenges encountered by transgender individuals and is often confined to qualitative contexts.

Therefore, this study aims to identify a possible correlate to the global status of transgender rights:

- Does a proportionate number of women in national parliaments make a difference in the extent to which countries protect the rights of transgender people?

Data

GDP per capita,
religiosity, regime
type, & year

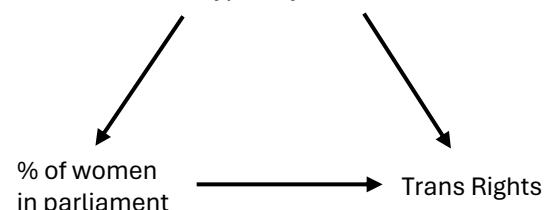


Figure 1. DAG

- The percentage of women in national parliaments is the **treatment** variable (World Bank)
- The global status of transgender rights serves as the **outcome** variable (“*Trans Rights Indicator Project*”, TRIP)
- GDP per capita, religiosity percent, democracy measures, & year are the **observed confounders**

Results

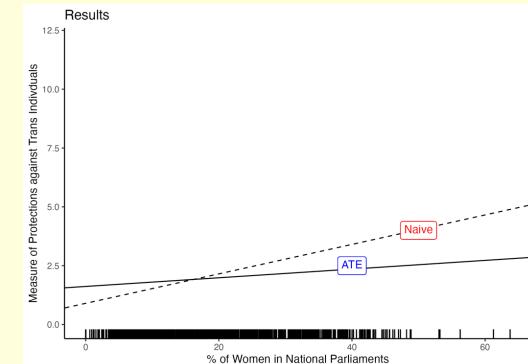


Figure 3. Results plot

- A naive comparison of means yielded an estimated treatment effect of 0.063
- After controlling for confounding, the ATE was .018
- The ATE suggests that for every increase in the percentage of women in national parliaments, there is a corresponding increase of 0.018 in protections for trans rights

Conclusion

- While countries with a higher representation of women in parliament tend to have stronger transgender protections, this association appears to be influenced more by factors related to other characteristics rather than a direct causal effect of women's representation in parliament on trans rights

References

- Williamson, M. (2023). A Global Analysis of Transgender Rights: Introducing the Trans Rights Indicator Project (TRIP). *Perspectives on Politics*, 1–20.