Online Appendix B for: The Case for Multiple UESDs and an Application to Migrant Deaths in the Mediterranean Sea

Joris Frese - European University Institute

October 13, 2024

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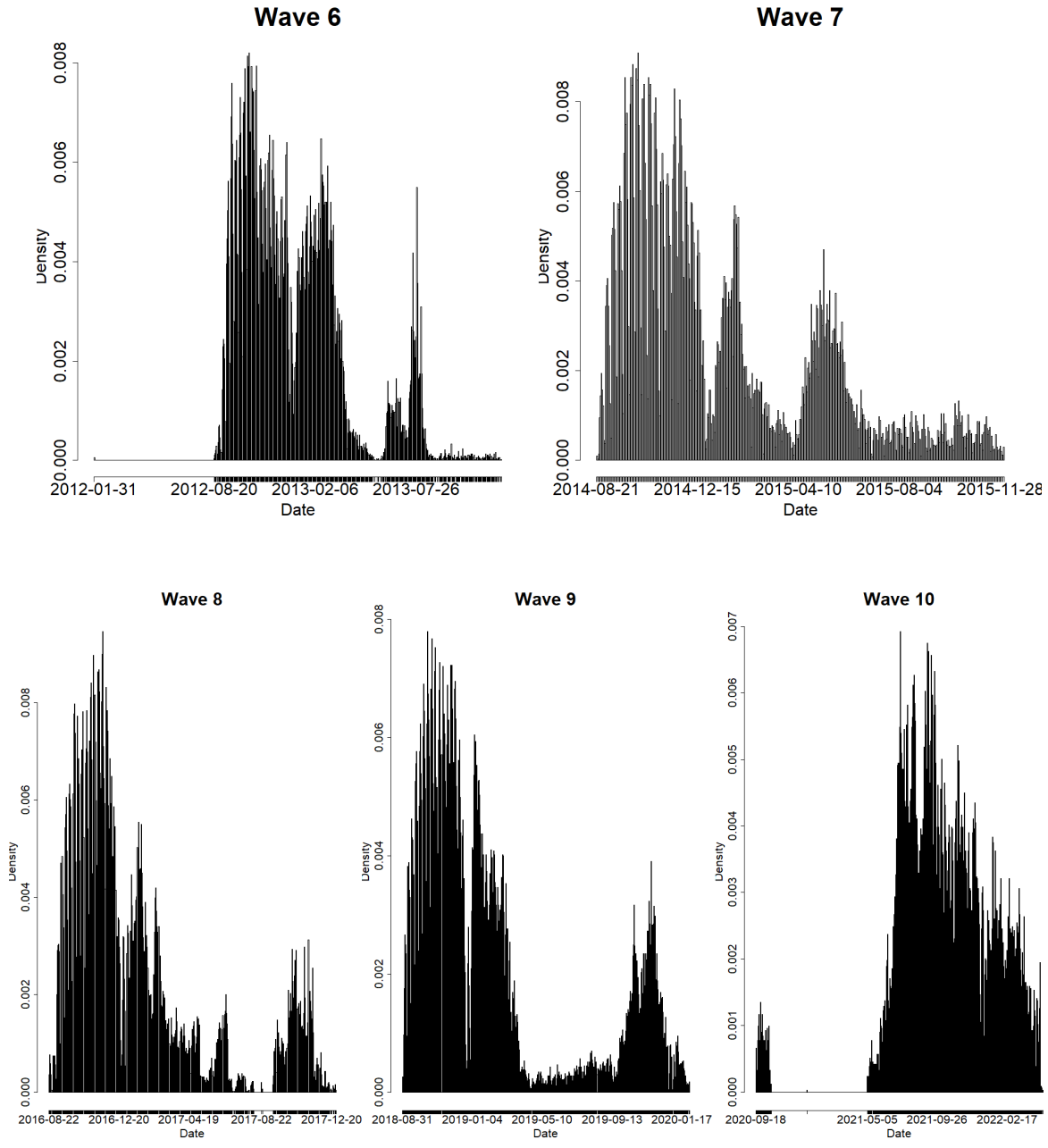
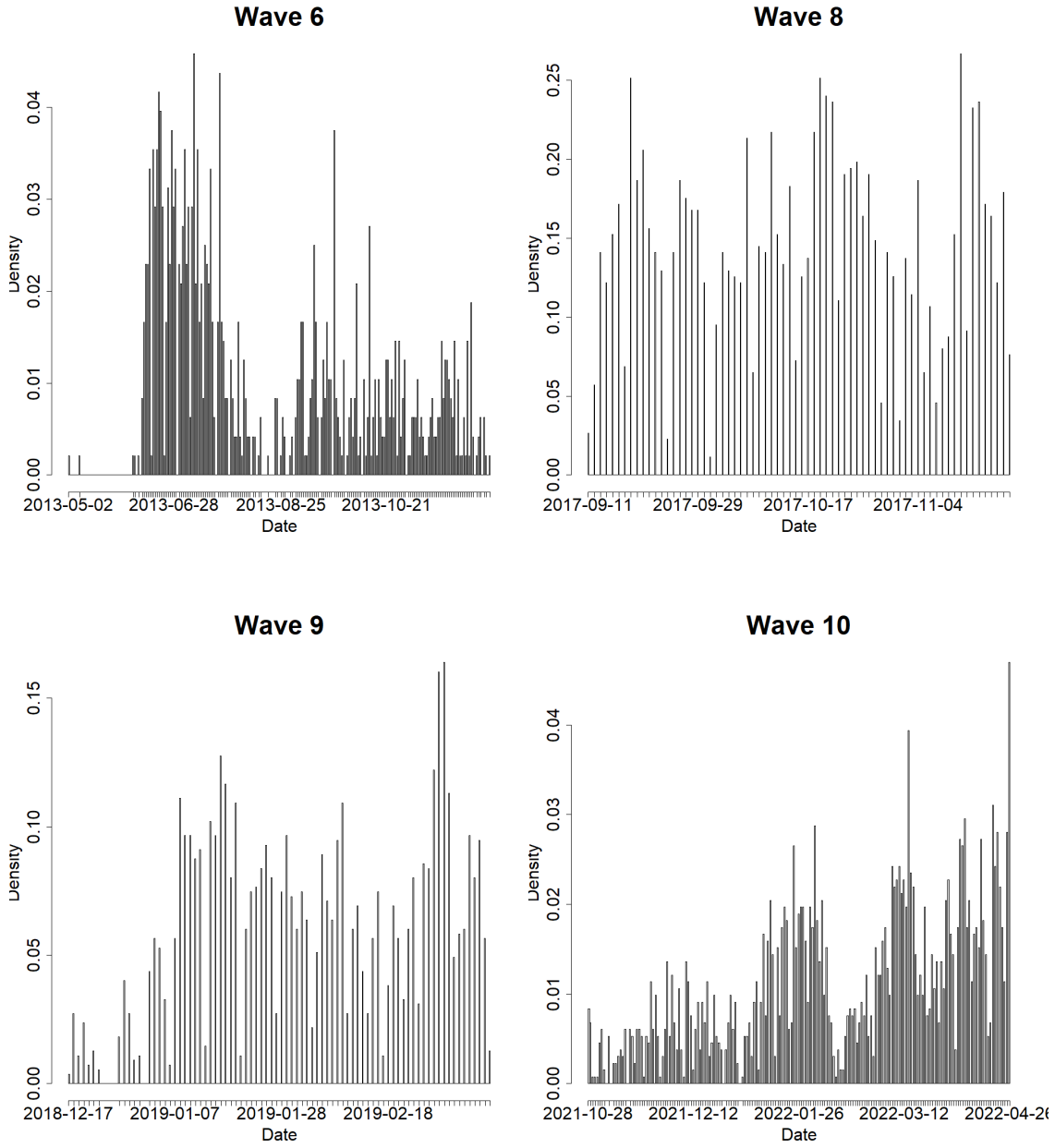
B1: Interview density per date during the ESS waves 6 to 10



B2: Interview density per date in Italy during the ESS waves 6, 8, 9, and 10



Note: No interviews were conducted in Italy during ESS wave 7.

B3: Question formulations of the six relevant outcome items in ESS waves 6 to 10

Item	Question Formulation	Response Scale
Immigration: **IMSMETN**	To what extent do you think [country] should allow people of the same race or ethnic group as most [country]'s people to come and live here?	1 Allow many to come and live here 2 Allow some 3 Allow a few 4 Allow none
Immigration: **IMDFETN**	How about people of a different race or ethnic group from most [country] people?	1 Allow many to come and live here 2 Allow some 3 Allow a few 4 Allow none
Immigration: **IMPCNTR**	How about people from the poorer countries outside Europe?	1 Allow many to come and live here 2 Allow some 3 Allow a few 4 Allow none
Immigrants: **IMBGECO**	Would you say it is generally bad or good for [country]'s economy that people come to live here from other countries?	0 Bad for the economy 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Good for the economy
Immigrants: **IMUECLT**	Would you say that [country]'s cultural life is generally undermined or enriched by people coming to live here from other countries?	0 Cultural life undermined 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Cultural life enriched
Immigrants: **IMWBCNT**	Is [country] made a worse or a better place to live by people coming to live here from other countries?	0 Worse place to live 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Better place to live

B4: Factor loadings across ESS waves 6 to 10

	Factor: attitudes toward immigration	**Factor: attitudes toward immigrants**
ESS Wave 6	IMWBCNT: -0.5495725 IMUECLT: -0.6101893 IMBGECO: -0.5706480	IMPCNTR: -0.5974771 IMDFETN: -0.5999340 IMSMETN: -0.5320716
ESS Wave 7	IMWBCNT: 0.5461676 IMUECLT: 0.6121831 IMBGECO: 0.5717804	IMPCNTR: -0.6097208 IMDFETN: -0.6034474 IMSMETN: -0.5138986
ESS Wave 8	IMWBCNT: -0.5497127 IMUECLT: -0.6147959 IMBGECO: -0.5655457	IMPCNTR: 0.6007738 IMDFETN: 0.6052611 IMSMETN: 0.5222355
ESS Wave 9	IMWBCNT: 0.5527213 IMUECLT: 0.6117892 IMBGECO: 0.5658738	IMPCNTR: 0.5992263 IMDFETN: 0.6091148 IMSMETN: 0.5195258
ESS Wave 10	IMWBCNT: 0.5403292 IMUECLT: 0.6090673 IMBGECO: 0.5805871	IMPCNTR: -0.5992911 IMDFETN: -0.6093926 IMSMETN: -0.5191250

B5: List of Mediterranean boat accidents with more than 100 casualties from 2014 to 2022

Note: only events with more than 500 ESS observations in a seven-day bandwidth are included in the analysis, to ensure high-powered samples. Events with another incident in the following week are excluded to reduce the risk of multiple treatments.

12.05.2014: Underpowered
13.06.2014: Underpowered
14.07.2014: Underpowered
19.07.2014: Underpowered
29.07.2014: Underpowered
22.08.2014: Underpowered
31.08.2014: Included in the Analysis
10.09.2014: Less than a week before another incident
14.09.2014: Included in the Analysis
08.02.2015: Included in the Analysis
12.04.2015: Less than a week before another incident
18.04.2015: Included in the Analysis
06.08.2015: Underpowered
27.08.2015: Underpowered
13.04.2016: Underpowered
18.04.2016: Underpowered
25.05.2016: Underpowered
26.05.2016: Underpowered
27.05.2016: Underpowered
02.06.2016: Underpowered
21.09.2016: Included in the Analysis
02.11.2016: Included in the Analysis
14.11.2016: Included in the Analysis
14.01.2017: Included in the Analysis
19.02.2017: Less than a week before another incident
20.02.2017: Included in the Analysis
23.03.2017: Included in the Analysis
16.04.2017: Included in the Analysis
07.05.2017: Underpowered
19.05.2017: Underpowered
10.06.2017: Less than a week before another incident
16.06.2017: Less than a week before another incident
17.06.2017: Included in the Analysis
30.08.2017: Underpowered
10.01.2018: Underpowered
01.02.2018: Underpowered
02.06.2018: Underpowered

29.06.2018: Underpowered
01.07.2018: Underpowered
01.09.2018: Underpowered
18.01.2019: Included in the Analysis
25.07.2019: Underpowered
04.12.2019: Included in the Analysis
10.01.2020: Underpowered
24.10.2020: Underpowered
30.10.2020: Underpowered
16.11.2020: Underpowered
22.04.2021: Underpowered
17.12.2021: Included in the Analysis

B6: RDD coefficients (and p-values) across different bandwidths

Note: all values are rounded at the second decimal place. The top Table shows bandwidth tests for attitudes toward immigrants, and the bottom Table shows bandwidth tests for attitudes toward immigration.

Multiple Bandwidth Tests for Attitudes Toward Immigrants

Shipwreck	Immigrants 5-day bw	Immigrants 10-day bw	Immigrants 20-day bw	Immigrants 40-day bw	Immigrants 50-day bw
03.10.2013	5.78 (0.21)	1.68 (0.51)	0.52 (0.82)	1.45 (0.22)	1.48 (0.15)
31.08.2014	-0.22 (0.79)	-0.37 (0.50)	-0.64 (0.21)	-0.54 (0.29)	-0.50 (0.33)
14.09.2014	0.73 (0.20)	0.19 (0.55)	0.25 (0.22)	0.12 (0.47)	0.07 (0.65)
08.02.2015	-0.28 (0.63)	0.04 (0.92)	0.15 (0.60)	0.15 (0.48)	0.09 (0.66)
18.04.2015	0.33 (0.61)	0.15 (0.73)	0.56 (0.09)	0.34 (0.17)	0.28 (0.23)
21.09.2016	0.03 (0.95)	-0.26 (0.31)	-0.07 (0.70)	-0.04 (0.79)	-0.03 (0.85)
02.11.2016	-0.07 (0.83)	-0.03 (0.90)	0.05 (0.75)	0.01 (0.91)	0.04 (0.68)
14.11.2016	0.60 (0.13)	0.17 (0.46)	0.18 (0.23)	0.21 (0.05)	0.21 (0.04)
14.01.2017	0.05 (0.92)	-0.07 (0.82)	-0.24 (0.28)	-0.12 (0.44)	-0.09 (0.53)
20.02.2017	-0.33 (0.64)	0.37 (0.32)	0.03 (0.91)	0.00 (0.98)	0.02 (0.93)
23.03.2017	0.45 (0.62)	0.78 (0.16)	0.65 (0.09)	0.35 (0.19)	0.32 (0.17)
16.04.2017	-0.07 (0.95)	0.19 (0.78)	-0.05 (0.92)	-0.29 (0.36)	-0.41 (0.13)
17.06.2017	-0.15 (0.86)	-0.95 (0.07)	-0.82 (0.04)	-0.16 (0.60)	-0.02 (0.93)
18.01.2019	-0.15 (0.70)	-0.06 (0.81)	0.03 (0.87)	0.12 (0.40)	0.07 (0.58)
18.01.2019 It	-1.60 (0.06)	-1.12 (0.05)	-0.97 (0.04)	-0.38 (0.28)	-0.34 (0.30)
04.12.2019	-0.34 (0.57)	-0.32 (0.45)	-0.28 (0.39)	-0.17 (0.48)	-0.23 (0.29)
17.12.2021	0.41 (0.44)	-0.22 (0.54)	-0.25 (0.31)	-0.27 (0.14)	-0.32 (0.06)
17.12.2021 It	3.73 (0.04)	1.92 (0.15)	0.34 (0.72)	0.13 (0.85)	0.07 (0.90)
Lumped	0.05 (0.72)	-0.03 (0.72)	0.01 (0.87)	0.01 (0.85)	-0.01 (0.89)
Lumped It	-0.44 (0.57)	-0.30 (0.58)	-0.43 (0.30)	-0.03 (0.91)	0.00 (1.00)

Multiple Bandwidth Tests for Attitudes Toward Immigration

Shipwreck	Immigration 5-day bw	Immigration 10-day bw	Immigration 20-day bw	Immigration 40-day bw	Immigration 50-day
03.10.2013	2.45 (0.29)	1.63 (0.08)	1.09 (0.07)	1.13 (0.00)	0.96 (0.00)
31.08.2014	-0.06 (0.86)	-0.16 (0.45)	-0.18 (0.35)	-0.17 (0.35)	-0.16 (0.36)
14.09.2014	0.01 (0.96)	-0.01 (0.94)	0.04 (0.53)	0.03 (0.58)	0.03 (0.62)
08.02.2015	0.48 (0.05)	0.17 (0.29)	0.01 (0.91)	-0.06 (0.46)	-0.09 (0.22)
18.04.2015	-0.25 (0.36)	-0.20 (0.27)	0.09 (0.48)	0.15 (0.13)	0.10 (0.30)
21.09.2016	-0.05 (0.72)	-0.12 (0.14)	-0.06 (0.36)	-0.02 (0.70)	-0.01 (0.83)
02.11.2016	-0.05 (0.68)	-0.08 (0.28)	-0.01 (0.81)	0.01 (0.89)	0.01 (0.72)
14.11.2016	0.17 (0.17)	0.06 (0.47)	0.03 (0.52)	0.03 (0.41)	0.03 (0.40)
14.01.2017	0.23 (0.21)	0.01 (0.95)	-0.01 (0.86)	0.01 (0.82)	0.01 (0.78)
20.02.2017	0.01 (0.97)	0.19 (0.22)	0.08 (0.45)	0.01 (0.92)	-0.00 (0.94)
23.03.2017	0.07 (0.83)	0.22 (0.27)	0.30 (0.03)	0.19 (0.06)	0.16 (0.06)
16.04.2017	-0.44 (0.25)	0.06 (0.82)	0.00 (0.98)	0.01 (0.94)	-0.04 (0.68)
17.06.2017	0.02 (0.92)	-0.11 (0.49)	-0.17 (0.15)	-0.19 (0.04)	-0.19 (0.02)
18.01.2019	-0.01 (0.93)	0.03 (0.77)	0.08 (0.23)	0.06 (0.25)	0.05 (0.31)
18.01.2019 It	-0.19 (0.55)	-0.20 (0.36)	-0.14 (0.38)	-0.07 (0.57)	-0.06 (0.59)
04.12.2019	0.06 (0.78)	0.09 (0.53)	0.05 (0.66)	0.01 (0.86)	-0.01 (0.88)
17.12.2021	-0.07 (0.70)	-0.06 (0.62)	0.09 (0.32)	0.08 (0.22)	0.08 (0.21)
17.12.2021 It	0.83 (0.15)	0.41 (0.33)	-0.08 (0.80)	-0.28 (0.21)	-0.28 (0.17)
Lumped	0.02 (0.72)	-0.01 (0.74)	0.02 (0.39)	0.01 (0.35)	0.00 (0.71)
Lumped It	0.14 (0.63)	0.09 (0.63)	0.03 (0.82)	0.0 (0.79)	0.02 (0.81)

B7: Placebo tests with fake cutoff points before the two events with significant effects

Note: RDD coefficients (and p-values) are reported for a 30-day bandwidth at the main model specification (kernel weighted, with robust standard errors). All values are rounded at the second decimal place.

Fake Cutoff Placebo Tests

Placebo Treatment	03.10.2013 Immigrants	03.10.2013 Immigration	23.03.2017 Immigrants	23.03.2017 Immigration
T – 365 days	0.14 (0.28)	0.02 (0.70)	No data	No data
T – 90 days	-0.18 (0.61)	-0.18 (0.18)	-0.12 (0.58)	-0.13 (0.10)
T – 75 days	0.42 (0.11)	0.10 (0.30)	0.15 (0.43)	-0.01 (0.88)
T – 60 days	0.59 (0.06)	0.09 (0.48)	0.30 (0.06)	0.07 (0.26)
T – 45 days	-1.56 (0.10)	-0.33 (0.34)	0.34 (0.08)	0.04 (0.57)
T – 30 days	-0.84 (0.56)	-0.07 (0.89)	0.16 (0.42)	0.05 (0.55)

B8: RDD coefficients (and p-values) when using the day following the events as a cut-off point

Note: RDD coefficients (and p-values) are reported for a 30-day bandwidth. All values are rounded at the second decimal place.

UESD Results at T+1

Shipwreck	Immigrants - RDD coefficient (and p-value) at T+1	Immigration - RDD coefficient (and p-value) at T+1
03.10.2013	0.34 (0.80)	0.89 (0.03)
31.08.2014	-0.86 (0.07)	-0.24 (0.14)
14.09.2014	0.05 (0.78)	-0.04 (0.55)
08.02.2015	0.18 (0.41)	-0.11 (0.20)
18.04.2015	0.35 (0.23)	0.24 (0.03)
21.09.2016	-0.09 (0.62)	0.01 (0.83)
02.11.2016	-0.02 (0.87)	0.01 (0.75)
14.11.2016	0.13 (0.31)	0.02 (0.71)
14.01.2017	-0.17 (0.34)	-0.06 (0.34)
20.02.2017	0.04 (0.84)	0.03 (0.76)
23.03.2017	0.38 (0.21)	0.26 (0.02)
16.04.2017	0.02 (0.96)	0.09 (0.47)
17.06.2017	-0.59 (0.07)	-0.21 (0.04)
18.01.2019	0.05 (0.76)	0.03 (0.61)
18.01.2019 It	-0.15 (0.71)	-0.14 (0.29)
04.12.2019	-0.10 (0.72)	-0.00 (0.97)
17.12.2021	-0.25 (0.22)	0.13 (0.08)
17.12.2021 It	-0.87 (0.23)	-0.43 (0.08)

B9: Placebo outcome tests for set demographics and implausible outcomes

Note: RDD coefficients (and p-values) are reported for a 30-day bandwidth. All values are rounded at the second decimal place.

Placebo Outcome Tests for Set Demographics

	Cannot be affected by treatment		
Sample	Age	Gender	Work Hours
03.10.2013	-1.20 (0.85)	0.18 (0.25)	4.48 (0.68)
31.08.2014	10.44 (0.00)	0.00 (0.97)	-4.01 (0.09)
14.09.2014	2.07 (0.03)	0.02 (0.45)	-0.93 (0.23)
08.02.2015	0.92 (0.44)	-0.04 (0.21)	1.11 (0.26)
18.04.2015	1.52 (0.33)	0.08 (0.04)	0.92 (0.42)
21.09.2016	-2.41 (0.01)	-0.00 (0.91)	0.89 (0.23)
02.11.2016	0.52 (0.43)	0.02 (0.22)	0.49 (0.41)
14.11.2016	0.60 (0.35)	0.00 (0.86)	0.69 (0.25)
14.01.2017	-0.52 (0.56)	0.01 (0.79)	-0.39 (0.65)
20.02.2017	1.37 (0.23)	0.04 (0.26)	-0.36 (0.71)
23.03.2017	-2.42 (0.11)	-0.04 (0.40)	-1.66 (0.22)
16.04.2017	-2.31 (0.18)	0.06 (0.23)	1.06 (0.48)
17.06.2017	-2.31 (0.18)	0.02 (0.65)	-3.44 (0.10)
18.01.2019	-0.94 (0.24)	0.02 (0.42)	0.86 (0.27)
18.01.2019 It	1.42 (0.42)	0.01 (0.76)	1.91 (0.23)
04.12.2019	-0.80 (0.51)	0.02 (0.50)	-0.45 (0.64)
17.12.2021	-1.05 (0.33)	-0.01 (0.83)	-1.78 (0.16)
17.12.2021 It	1.23 (0.75)	0.02 (0.87)	-0.65 (0.82)
Lumped	-0.15 (0.55)	0.02 (0.02)	0.13 (0.56)
Lumped It	0.67 (0.66)	0.02 (0.55)	1.91 (0.20)

Placebo Outcome Tests for Implausible Outcomes

	Cannot be affected by treatment		
Sample	Opinion on gay Rights	Opinion on state of health services	Opinion on state of education
03.10.2013	-0.59 (0.07)	0.42 (0.58)	-0.30 (0.62)
31.08.2014	0.04 (0.74)	0.26 (0.42)	-0.36 (0.20)
14.09.2014	0.02 (0.68)	0.12 (0.29)	-0.02 (0.82)
08.02.2015	-0.05 (0.44)	-0.12 (0.44)	-0.11 (0.46)
18.04.2015	-0.05 (0.58)	-0.25 (0.16)	0.10 (0.59)
21.09.2016	0.02 (0.65)	-0.01 (0.90)	0.12 (0.21)
02.11.2016	0.00 (0.89)	-0.02 (0.81)	-0.00 (0.97)
14.11.2016	-0.05 (0.13)	-0.01 (0.92)	0.05 (0.49)
14.01.2017	0.09 (0.09)	0.03 (0.79)	0.02 (0.83)
20.02.2017	-0.05 (0.48)	0.04 (0.81)	-0.11 (0.43)
23.03.2017	-0.13 (0.05)	-0.12 (0.56)	-0.20 (0.26)
16.04.2017	-0.03 (0.72)	0.35 (0.13)	0.19 (0.32)
17.06.2017	0.17 (0.16)	-0.32 (0.14)	-0.45 (0.04)
18.01.2019	0.01 (0.90)	0.14 (0.15)	0.15 (0.11)
18.01.2019 It	0.23 (0.03)	-0.01 (0.94)	-0.12 (0.55)
04.12.2019	-0.06 (0.41)	-0.05 (0.75)	-0.36 (0.02)
17.12.2021	0.07 (0.21)	0.01 (0.92)	0.14 (0.25)
17.12.2021 It	0.08 (0.67)	0.22 (0.59)	0.24 (0.51)
Lumped	0.01 (0.37)	-0.02 (0.50)	-0.01 (0.75)
Lumped It	0.12 (0.16)	0.09 (0.63)	-0.03 (0.84)

B10: Differences in item non-response for each of the six outcome variables before and after each event

Reported below are differences-in-means (and p-values) between the treatment and the control group for the proportion of item non-response for each of the six outcome variables and each event. P-values below 0,05 suggest a significant difference in item non-response between the treatment and the control group. Negative mean differences suggest lower item non-response in the treatment group; positive mean differences suggest higher item non-response in the treatment group. For quite a few of the events, there are significant differences in non-response behavior for the six relevant outcome variables. However, there is no clear trend in signs: while the non-responses increase in the treatment group for some events and some outcome variables, they decrease for others. For the original study and six replications, there are no significant differences in non-response behavior for any of the six outcome variables. The highest difference in means is reported for the first variable measuring attitudes toward immigrants, which sees a 7.3 percentage points higher non-response rate for treated respondents after the April 2015 shipwreck compared to the untreated respondents before that event. Differences in unit non-response can unfortunately not be reliably assessed with the given data.

Difference in item Non-Response Before And After Each Event

Event	Immigrants V1	Immigrants V2	Immigrants V3	Immigration V1	Immigration V2	Immigration V3
03.10.2013	0.014 (0.557)	0.004 (0.836)	0.005 (0.810)	0.014 (0.557)	0.039 (0.132)	0.014 (0.557)
31.08.2014	0.004 (0.517)	-0.004 (0.652)	0.007 (0.208)	0.004 (0.591)	0.002 (0.733)	0.005 (0.481)
14.09.2014	0.005 (0.106)	0.003 (0.317)	0.003 (0.327)	-0.005 (0.136)	-0.003 (0.377)	-0.001 (0.862)
08.02.2015	0.008 (0.127)	0.006 (0.298)	-0.005 (0.367)	0.021 (0.000)	0.021 (0.000)	0.027 (0.000)
18.04.2015	0.073 (0.000)	0.038 (0.000)	0.049 (0.000)	0.030 (0.000)	0.031 (0.000)	0.015 (0.082)
21.09.2016	0.000 (0.890)	0.000 (0.992)	0.003 (0.312)	0.000 (0.988)	-0.003 (0.442)	-0.003 (0.379)
02.11.2016	0.008 (0.001)	0.006 (0.018)	0.005 (0.023)	-0.003 (0.138)	0.001 (0.768)	-0.000 (0.962)
14.11.2016	0.010 (0.000)	0.004 (0.157)	0.009 (0.000)	0.004 (0.050)	0.006 (0.004)	0.007 (0.002)
14.01.2017	0.005 (0.309)	0.017 (0.000)	0.004 (0.298)	0.015 (0.000)	0.015 (0.000)	0.022 (0.000)
20.02.2017	-0.008 (0.084)	-0.023 (0.000)	-0.000 (0.947)	0.003 (0.498)	0.004 (0.373)	0.006 (0.327)
23.03.2017	-0.012 (0.034)	-0.008 (0.173)	-0.003 (0.600)	-0.020 (0.000)	-0.019 (0.001)	-0.038 (0.000)
16.04.2017	-0.006 (0.258)	-0.005 (0.432)	-0.001 (0.909)	-0.007 (0.192)	-0.008 (0.169)	-0.003 (0.637)
17.06.2017	0.010 (0.481)	0.032 (0.012)	0.015 (0.213)	0.004 (0.695)	0.014 (0.145)	0.011 (0.295)
18.01.2019	0.001 (0.814)	-0.000 (0.960)	0.003 (0.381)	-0.001 (0.803)	-0.003 (0.392)	0.005 (0.151)
04.12.2019	0.009 (0.254)	0.007 (0.367)	-0.010 (0.194)	0.005 (0.488)	0.007 (0.338)	0.005 (0.492)
17.12.2021	0.004 (0.749)	-0.012 (0.118)	-0.001 (0.847)	-0.015 (0.168)	-0.004 (0.737)	-0.018 (0.027)

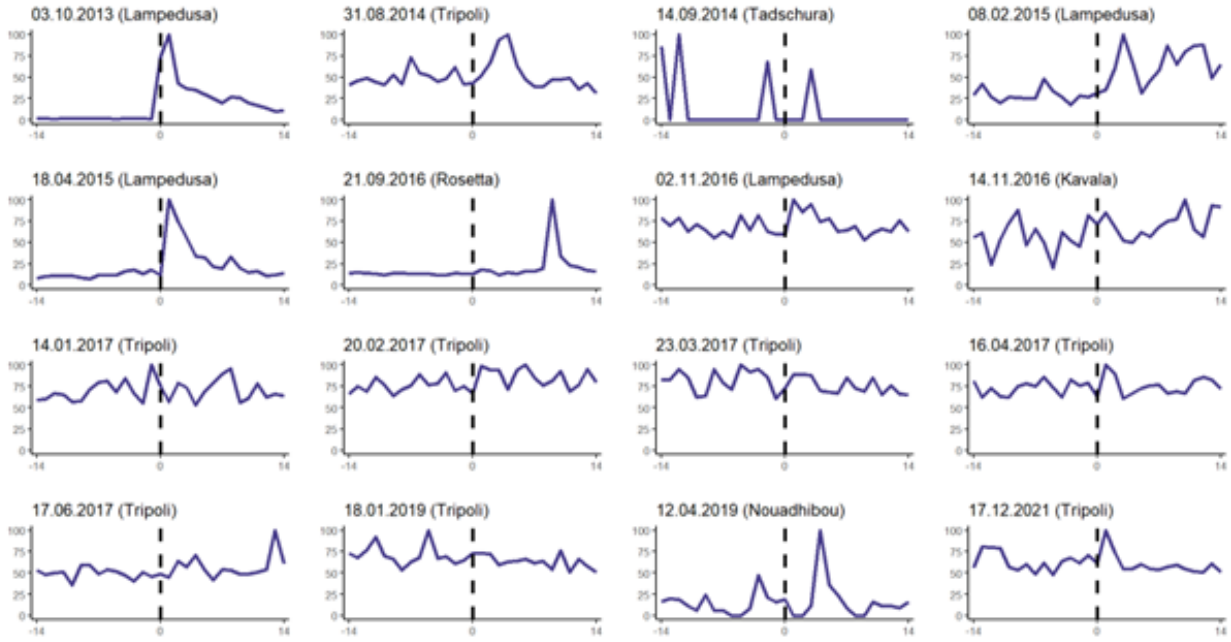
B11: Newspaper reporting and Google trends around the sixteen shipwrecks

The results of the RDDs only shows the lack of effects but do not necessarily mean that the mechanism behind it is indeed compassion fade. It could also be the case that the news media is simply not reporting about these events as much as it did about the 2013 Lampedusa shipwreck. To examine this potential supply-side fatigue further, I consulted the news archives of four of the biggest newspapers in Europe: the Daily Mail, the Independent, Bild, and Süddeutsche Zeitung. The plot below shows how many of these newspapers reported on each of the sixteen shipwrecks. Links to the relevant news articles are included further below. As I expected, since every shipwreck in the sample was a highly lethal humanitarian catastrophe, they mostly received coverage in the big papers, warranting the assumption that the public was informed about them. Besides the 2013 Lampedusa shipwreck, ten other shipwrecks received coverage from every single one of these papers. Only one shipwreck did not receive coverage from any of them.

Google trends on the other hand show that despite the severity of the incidents and despite their news coverage, public interest in them was mostly low. The worldwide google searches for the names of the islands or port cities in the vicinity of the sixteen shipwrecks under study are plotted below. Each graph shows Google searches two weeks before and after the shipwreck. A value of 100 on the y-axis marks the day with the highest amount of Google searches. All other values are in proportion to this day. Thus, consistently high values in one graph do not indicate a higher general interest than in another graph, but rather a more equal search distribution for that specific term in that specific time frame. From eyeballing the graphs, the only event that resulted in worldwide public interest like the 2013 (October 3rd) Lampedusa shipwreck was the 2015 (April 18th) Lampedusa shipwreck. These two shipwrecks are the only ones where public interest rose substantially on the day of the shipwreck and peaked on the following day. While the former increased public interest more than twentyfold though, the latter increased it only roughly tenfold. Interestingly, the

shipwreck in 2021, which was the only one not reported on in the big newspapers, yielded comparatively high public interest. The fact that the amount of newspaper coverage is decoupled from the amount of public interest in the shipwrecks gives further support for the compassion fade hypothesis.

Note: The x-axes of the plots below show the 28 days surrounding each event, while the y-axes show the relative search frequency of the name of a near island or port city for each event on each day. The vertical dotted line marks the day of the shipwreck in each graph.



Included below are links to news articles in four of the most-read newspapers in the UK and Germany covering the Mediterranean boat accidents. Note: For each event, news archives were searched on the day of the event and the following three days. All links have been accessed on November 6, 2022.

03.10.2013: Sz: https://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/migration-fluechtlingsdrama-zahl-der-opfer-koennte-weiter-steigen-dpa.urn-newsml-dpa-com-20090101-131004-99-00572

Bild: https://www.bild.de/news/aktuell/fluechtlingsdrama-vor-lampedusa–hunderte-32662542.bild.html

Daily Mail: https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2442347/Tiny-sunken-boat-carried-300-African-migrants-deaths-pictured.html

The Independent: https://www.independent.co.uk/independentplus/lampedusa-boat-wreck-hundreds-of-migrants-feared-dead-after-ship-sinks-off-italy-8857307.html

31.08.2014: Daily Mail: https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2738920/Boat-carrying-100-migrants-capsizes-Libya.html

14.09.2014: Sz: https://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/konflikte-todesfalle-mittelmeer-hunderte-fluechtlinge-ertrunken-dpa.urn-newsml-dpa-com-20090101-140915-99-04631

Bild: https://www.bild.de/news/ausland/schiffsunglueck/fluechtlingsdrama-im-mittelmeer-37672476.bild.html

Daily Mail: https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-2755708/Many-deaths-boat-African-emigrants-sinks-Libyan-coast–Libya-navy.html

The Independent: https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/up-to-500-migrants-feared-dead-after-boat-is-rammed-by-traffickers-off-malta-9734497.html

08.02.2015: Sz: https://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/fluechtlinge-mehr-als-330-tote-bei-fluechtlingsdrama-vor-lampedusa-befuerchtet-dpa.urn-newsml-dpa-com-20090101-150211-99-09002

Bild: https://www.bild.de/news/ausland/lampedusa/lempedusa-fluechtlinge-vermisst-ertrunken-39722844.bild.html

Daily Mail: https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2949232/UN-At-300-migrants-missing-new-sea-tragedy.html

The Independent: https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/hundreds-of-migrants-die-in-mediterranean-tragedy-they-were-swallowed-by-the-waves-10038773.html

18.04.2015: Sz: https://www.sueddeutsche.de/wirtschaft/medien-schweigeminute-bei-jauch-fuer-ertrunkene-fluechtlinge-dpa.urn-newsml-dpa-com-20090101-150420-99-01579

Bild: https://www.bild.de/news/ausland/schiffsunglueck/fluechtlingsdrama-im-mittelmeer-40606466.bild.html

Daily Mail: https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-3045837/The-Latest-Spain-calls-EU-action-migrants.html

The Independent: https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/migrant-boat-disaster-eu-must-commit-funds-to-stop-many-more-dying-10188380.html

21.09.2016: Sz: https://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/migration-30-tote-bei-untergang-von-fluechtlingsboot-vor-aegyptens-kueste-dpa.urn-newsml-dpa-com-20090101-160921-99-540575

Bild: https://www.bild.de/news/aktuelles/news/42-tote-nach-untergang-von-fluechtlingsboot-47940966.bild.html

Daily Mail: https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3800808/Migrant-boat-capsizes-Egypt-killing-42.html

The Independent: https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/hundreds-of-migrants-die-in-mediterranean-tragedy-they-were-swallowed-by-the-waves-10038773.html

02.11.2016: Sz: https://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/fluechtlinge-un-befuerchten-erneute-fluechtlingstragoedie-im-mittelmeer-dpa.urn-newsml-dpa-com-20090101-161103-99-48698

Bild: https://www.bild.de/politik/aktuelles/politik-ausland/erneute-fluechtlingskatastrophe-immittelmeer-48591288.bild.html

Daily Mail: https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3901456/UN-says-239-migrants-die-two-shipwrecks-Libya.html

The Independent: https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/refugee-crisis-latest-boat-disaster-capsizing-sinking-mediterranean-sea-libya-239-un-a7395376.html

14.11.2016: Sz: https://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/migration-vier-tote-menschen-in-fluechtlingsboot-in-der-aegaeis-entdeckt-dpa.urn-newsml-dpa-com-20090101-161116-99-207004

Bild: https://www.bild.de/news/aktuelles/news/340-bootsfluechtlinge-sterben-immittelmeer-48806578.bild.html

Daily Mail: https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3939212/NGO-says-100-missing-Med-migrant-boat-capsize.html

The Independent: https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/refugee-crisis-boat-disasters-sinking-capsized-240-migrants-drowned-libya-2016-deadliest-year-a7421346.html

14.01.2017: Sz: https://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/migration-180-fluechtlinge-vermisst-1.3336815

Bild: https://www.bild.de/politik/aktuelles/politik-ausland/boot-mit-mehr-als-100-menschen-im-mittelmeer-49783904.bild.html

Daily Mail: https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-4120816/IOM-Only-4-survivors-migrant-shipwreck-Libya.html

The Independent: https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/refugee-crisis-latest-drowning-freezing-snow-mediterranean-hypothermia-greece-bulgaria-deaths-toll-un-iom-drowning-libya-italy-a7532091.html

20.02.2017: Sz: https://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/fluechtlinge-74-leichen-verungluckter-migranten-an-libyscher-kueste-angespuelt-dpa.urn-newsml-dpa-com-20090101-170221-99-375710

Bild: https://www.bild.de/politik/ausland/fluechtlingskrise/vor-kueste-libyens-ertrunken-50531626.bild.html

Daily Mail: https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-4245206/Bodies-74-migrants-wash-Libya-beach-Red-Crescent.html

The Independent: https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/refugee-crisis-migrant-boat-disasters-mediterranean-sea-libya-74-beach-zawiyah-crossings-a7590966.html

23.03.2017: Sz: https://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/migration-unhcr-befuerchtet-neues-fluechtlingsdrama-im-mittelmeer-dpa.urn-newsml-dpa-com-20090101-170323-99-787066

Bild: https://www.bild.de/politik/aktuelles/politik-ausland/neues-fluechtlingsdrama-im-mittelmeer-befuerchtet-50985210.bild.html

Daily Mail: https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-4343646/NGO-fears-death-240-migrants-Mediterranean.html

The Independent: https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/refugees-240-migrants-drown-mediterranean-sea-boats-capsize-north-africa-europe-crisis-a7647201.html

16.04.2017: Sz: https://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/migration-tausende-menschen-aus-seenot-gerettet-dpa.urn-newsml-dpa-com-20090101-170415-99-82866

Bild: https://www.bild.de/politik/aktuelles/politik-ausland/hunderte-menschen-aus-dem-mittelmeer-gerettet-51308662.bild.html

Daily Mail: https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4416402/At-20-migrants-drown-coast-Libya.html

The Independent: https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/refugees-dead-dinghy-libya-coast-migrant-boats-easter-weekend-8300-rescued-mediterranean-sea-sabratha-bodies-europe-a7690926.html

17.06.2017: Sz: https://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/migration-noch-mehr-tote-bei-fluechtlingsungluecken-im-mittelmeer-befuerchtet-dpa.urn-newsml-dpa-com-20090101-170620-99-925521

The Independent: https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/refugees-120-migrants-drown-latest-mediterranean-disaster-boat-sinks-asylum-seekers-nigeria-sudan-italy-libya-a7798961.html

18.01.2019: Sz: https://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/libyen-fluechtlingsboot-unglueck-1.4294972

Daily Mail: https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-6611045/Scores-migrants-feared-missing-Libya-IOM.html

The Independent: https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/mediterranean-sea-deaths-libya-refugees-italy-people-smugglers-morocco-missing-a8736776.html

04.12.2019: Sz: https://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/migration-boot-mit-migranten-sinkt-vor-kueste-mauretaniens-58-tote-dpa.urn-newsml-dpa-com-20090101-191205-99-15241

Daily Mail: https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7757377/UN-agency-says-57-migrants-dead-boat-capsizes.html

The Independent: https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/migrant-boat-capsize-gambia-mauritania-coast-asylum-seekers-a9233841.html

17.12.2021: No articles found in any of the four news archives

Finally, as the original study is focused on Italian respondents, and news about Mediterranean shipwrecks is expected to be particularly prominent in Italy, I also filtered Italian Factiva news archives for news articles including a combination of the terms "shipwreck" (IT: naufragio) and "migrant" (IT: migranti). The below table shows the number of news articles including both of these terms for each of the analyzed shipwrecks (on the day of the shipwreck and the following three days). As can be seen, news coverage was very high for three of the events, including the original one, with each of the three events surpassing 300 news articles dedicated to them. Eleven further events also received considerable news coverage (between 15 and 99 articles).Two of the events barely received any news coverage at all (with the number of articles in the single digits). These two events are the same ones that also received the least amount of coverage in the German and English-speaking newspapers.

This same procedure is also repeated for German Factiva news archives (with the terms "Mittelmeer" and "Bootsunglück") for comparison. There, the average number of articles per event is even higher and three shipwrecks have a higher coverage than the original Lampedusa shipwreck.

Event	Number of News Articles in Italian Factiva News Archives
03.10.2013	684
31.08.2014	2
14.09.2014	51
08.02.2015	84
18.04.2015	997
21.09.2016	78
02.11.2016	99
14.11.2016	95
14.01.2017	85
20.02.2017	16
23.03.2017	49
16.04.2017	22
17.06.2017	35
18.01.2019	304
04.12.2019	7
17.12.2021	15

Event	Number of News Articles in German Factiva Archives
03.10.2013	225
31.08.2014	58
14.09.2014	178
08.02.2015	200
18.04.2015	1270
21.09.2016	302
02.11.2016	186
14.11.2016	180
14.01.2017	131
20.02.2017	217
23.03.2017	149
16.04.2017	227
17.06.2017	161
18.01.2019	160
04.12.2019	100
17.12.2021	22

B12: Bivariate OLS results of the MUESD

Note: the table shows the bivariate OLS coefficients (and p-values) for all UESDs. All values are rounded to the second decimal place.

Event	Immigrants OLS	Immigration OLS
03.10.2013	1.17 (0.04)	0.68 (0.00)
31.08.2014	0.20 (0.22)	0.07 (0.22)
14.09.2014	0.20 (0.02)	0.02 (0.39)
08.02.2015	-0.00 (0.95)	-0.13 (0.01)
18.04.2015	0,32 (0.05)	0.02 (0.72)
21.09.2016	0.10 (0.24)	0.05 (0.06)
02.11.2016	0.08 (0.20)	0.01 (0.50)
14.11.2016	0.18 (0.00)	0.03 (0.23)
14.01.2017	-0.14 (0.14)	0.01 (0.82)
20.02.2017	0.01 (0.95)	0.01 (0.91)
23.03.2017	0.11 (0.45)	0.11 (0.04)
16.04.2017	-0.30 (0.06)	-0.04 (0.51)
17.06.2017	0.44 (0.02)	-0.09 (0.14)
18.01.2019	0.07 (0.42)	0.05 (0.09)
18.01.2019 ITA	0.02 (0.92)	-0.04 (0.53)
04.12.2019	-0.08 (0.54)	0.03 (0.55)
17.12.2021	-0.17 (0.13)	0.04 (0.28)
17.12.2021 ITA	0.26 (0.46)	-0.24 (0.04)

In these simple OLS regressions, the causal estimand encompasses all differences in the outcome Y between treated and untreated respondents bar the error term. It does not allow for inferences about potential pre-treatment trends (which would violate the exclusion restriction) or post-treatment trends (which could give insights into the distribution and longevity of a potential treatment effect). Instead, this specification is functionally equivalent to a difference-in-means test between the treatment and the control group, lumping together all control subjects and all treatment subjects into two indicators irrespective of their position on the running variable (i.e., their temporal distance to the event) and subtracting the former from the latter.

There are settings where it is reasonable to choose such a non-interactive regression over the RDD as the primary analysis tool. These include events with a delayed public reception (as the RDD only estimates the effect on the day of the event), a lack of survey data in the immediate proximity of the event, a sample that is limited to only a couple of days, or a sample that is underpowered for the inclusion of interaction terms. In cases where an event happens late in the day, an RDD with the day of the event as the cutoff point can suffer from low compliance.

Thus, these OLS estimates can be seen as an additional robustness check to account for any such possibilities of misestimated RDD coefficients. With the alternative OLS specification, three of the shipwrecks produce small, statistically significant effects (between 10% and 25% of the original effect size).

B13: Results with Region Fixed Effects

To account for the fact that some respondents from different regions within the same country might be interviewed at different times and might exhibit differential reactions to the shipwrecks, the below Table reports results from replications of the main analyses including region fixed effects. The ITT coefficients (and p-values) from these analyses lead to even more null results than the original analyses, with no single estimate being significant at the five-percent level. Thus, the overall conclusion of a null effect of shipwrecks on attitudes toward immigrants and immigration is further affirmed. All values are rounded to the third decimal place. A few of the models did not converge with regional fixed effects due to insufficient regional coverage (these are marked as NaN in the table).

Sample	Immigrants	Immigration
03.10.2013	1.009 (0.457)	0.810 (0.062)
31.08.2014	-0.530 (0.289)	-0.112 (0.540)
14.09.2014	NaN	0.046 (0.460)
08.02.2015	0.045 (0.846)	-0.072 (0.432)
18.04.2015	0.383 (0.145)	0.135 (0.215)
21.09.2016	NaN	NaN
02.11.2016	0.037 (0.762)	0.032 (0.450)
14.11.2016	0.138 (0.269)	-0.023 (0.574)
14.01.2017	-0.116 (0.517)	0.011 (0.867)
20.02.2017	-0.003 (0.988)	NaN
23.03.2017	0.173 (0.567)	0.173 (0.121)
16.04.2017	-0.024 (0.944)	0.108 (0.408)
17.06.2017	NaN	NaN
18.01.2019	0.134 (0.418)	0.089 (0.125)
18.01.2019 It	-0.644 (0.100)	-0.076 (0.578)
04.12.2019	-0.234 (0.384)	0.037 (0.692)
17.12.2021	-0.115 (0.584)	0.116 (0.110)
17.12.2021 It	-0.003 (0.9963)	-0.277 (0.263)

B14: Results with 2nd-Order Polynomials

The main RDD analyses estimate time trends linearly. To account for the possibility of non-linear time trends before or after a shipwreck, the below Table reports the results for the main outcome (attitudes toward immigration) including second-order polynomials. These quadratic terms model the control-slope and the treatment-slope in a non-linear fashion. Statistically significant p-values for either of the two quadratic terms indicate that the slopes are more accurately modeled with polynomials. This is a sensible robustness check for two reasons: 1) There is no reason to expect systematic trends before an event unless there were collateral events that already treated the supposed control group. A linear control group slope could then simply be caused by random noise or measurement error in the data. Polynomials can pick up such fluctuations more precisely and incorporate them into the estimate of the slope. 2) It is to be expected that any treatment effects caused by media coverage are only shortlived because people pick up other news as time passes and divert their attention from news in the past or simply forget about them. Polynomials are then able to detect if an initially upward slope in the treatment group falls off after some time.

As can be seen though, the polynomials significantly improve the model fit in only one case: the shipwreck in September 2016. Even in that one case, the substantive conclusions (a null result of the shipwreck on attitudes toward immigration) are not altered either. Thus, I conclude that the linear models reported in the main manuscript are sufficiently well-fitted to the data at hand.

Sample	ITT (SE)	P-Value of Pre-Polynomial	P-Value of Post-Polynomial
03.10.2013	1.075 (0.721)	0.646	0.772
31.08.2014	-0.305 (0.331)	0.563	0.566
14.09.2014	0.053 (0.045)	0.380	0.113
08.02.2015	0.080 (0.135)	0.188	0.166
18.04.2015	0.014 (0.157)	0.336	0.057
21.09.2016	-0.103 (0.078)	0.002	0.033
02.11.2016	-0.017 (0.062)	0.700	0.466
14.11.2016	0.024 (0.062)	0.778	0.824
14.01.2017	-0.021 (0.098)	0.694	0.570
20.02.2017	0.085 (0.125)	0.155	0.943
23.03.2017	0.373 (0.167)	0.373	0.118
16.04.2017	-0.004 (0.201)	0.668	0.594
17.06.2017	-0.148 (0.142)	0.264	0.903
18.01.2019	0.081 (0.081)	0.560	0.724
18.01.2019 It	-0.191 (0.195)	0.669	0.408
04.12.2019	0.062 (0.130)	0.672	0.554
17.12.2021	0.074 (0.101)	0.351	0.584
17.12.2021 It	0.031 (0.353)	0.843	0.186

B15: Overview of UESD identification assumptions

Three assumptions are of central importance for the identification strategy and thus the internal validity of every UESD: compliance, exclusion, and ignorability. *Compliance* is given when all study subjects comply with their treatment assignment. This assumption might be violated if not all survey participants interviewed after an event know of that event. *Exclusion* is given when all differences in realized outcomes between treated and untreated subjects are only caused by the event under study. This assumption might be violated if collateral events or pre-existing timetrends influence the realized outcomes. *Ignorability* is given when the potential outcomes are not affected by treatment assignment. This assumption might be violated in unbalanced samples.

In Appendices A4-A5 and B6-B13, I report all the established robustness checks to assess the adherence of the MUESD to these assumptions. For example, I conduct placebo tests at fake cutoff points (exclusion check) in Appendix B7, I report results at multiple bandwidths (ignorability check) in Appendix B6, and I report newspaper coverage (compliance check) in Appendix B13.