From Flags to Fate: Developing a Queer Utility Heuristic

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Presentation Overview

- Research Questions
- Overview of Literature
- Theory Building
- Overview of the Project
  - Variables
  - Construction of Variables
  - Data and Methods
- Analysis and Discussion
- Final Thoughts

Research Questions

- How do Queer people behave politically?

- How are Queer persons motivated to behave in the United States politically?

- How does Queer linked fate impact a person's willingness to engage in Voting and other political (non-voting) activities?

- Is Queer linked fate a valid measure?

Literature

- Linked Fate Broadly: Members of a group feel connected to the group, typically phrased as "What happens to (x) has an impact upon YOUR life".
  - Dawson 1994-African Americans
  - Sanchez and Masuoka 2016-Latinx persons
  - Masuoka and Junn 2013- Asian Americans
  - Simien 2005-Gender
  - Chan and Jasso 2021-Inter-Racial
- Much of the Literature regarding queerness is historically underdeveloped, and typically intersectional, not as a standalone concept.

Literature/Problems With

- Why Queer Persons?
  - Tajfel and Turner 1979-Group Identity
    - Categorization of others and the self as an ingroup and outgroup
    - Identification, or primary and secondary marginalization of the outgroup
    - Comparison between in and outgroup
  - Miller et al. 1981-Group Consciousness
    - Shared Marginalization of a Group leads them to collective action and can motivate certain political behaviors.
  - Need for extensions of research to include the Queer community

Theory and Hypotheses

- Queer Utility Heuristic-History of shared marginalization (AIDs crisis, Liberation riots, rights being restricted) has led to the development of a group consciousness that drives political behavior.

- Queer Linked Fate increases the likelihood that Queer persons will participate in politics in the United States.

- H1: Queer individuals who experience higher levels of Queer Linked Fate will be more likely to vote.

- H2: Queer individuals who experience higher levels of Queer Linked Fate will be more engaged in non-voting political behavior.

Data and Variables

- Data: 2020 Collaborative Multi-Racial Post-Election Survey (CMPS) Queer Respondents
  - N=1118
- Independent Variable: "What happens to LGBTQ People will have. . .
  - 1-Nothing to do with my what happens in my life
  - 2-Only a little to do with what happens in my life
  - 3-Something to do with what happens in my life
  - 4-A lot to do with what happens in my life
  - 5-A huge amount to do with what happens in my life"
- Dependent Variables: Voting and Participation
  - DV 1: Whether or not the Respondent Voted
  - DV 2: 9-point Index of Participation
- Multiple Controls: Age, Income, Gender, Race, Employment Status, Trust in Federal and Local Govts and Religiosity

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Methods

- Mixed methodological approach used to estimate hypotheses:
  - Logit and Probit for H1
  - Binomial, Beta-Binomial and Ordered Logit regression models for H2.
    - Beta-Binomial employed as a method of accounting for overdispersion.

  - Ordinary Least Squares for Robustness checks.

## Effect of Queer Linked Fate on Voting (Logit in odds ratios)
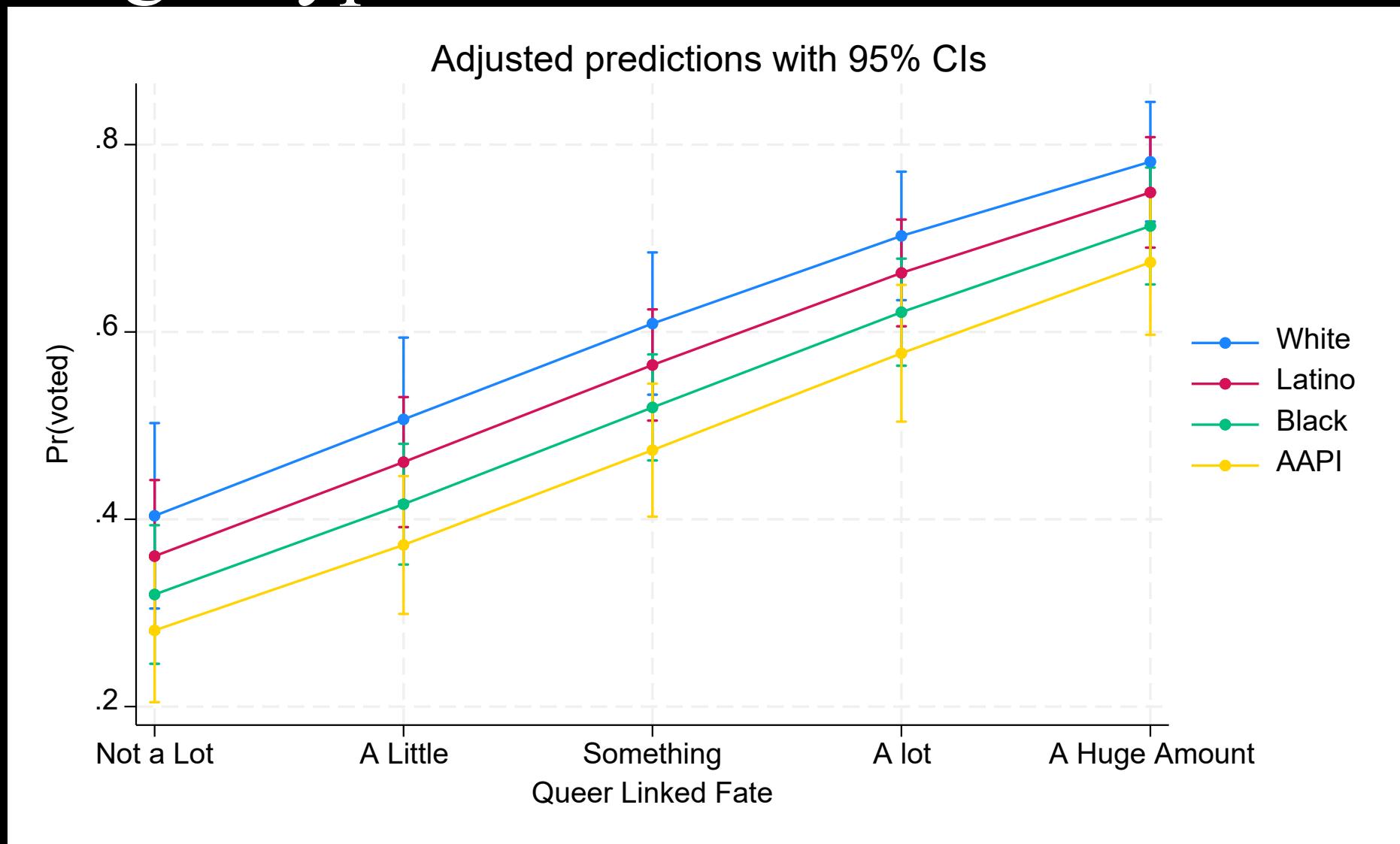
	Voting
Queer Linked Fate	1.50657***
	(7.03)
Female	1.50301*
	(2.55)
Non-Binary	1.13631
	(0.48)
Income	1.08475***
	(3.55)
Age	1.80470***
	(9.11)
Latino	0.72470
	(-1.52)
Black	0.71919
	(-1.47)
AAPI	0.52594**
	(-2.85)
Employment Status	0.87600**
	(-2.96)
Trust in Federal Government	0.85452
	(-1.33)
Trust in Local Government	0.96120
	(-0.33)
Religiosity	0.92018
	(-1.34)
Observations	1017
Pseudo R^2	0.165
AIC	1202.05443
BIC	1266.07439
Log lik.	-588.02722
Chi-squared	150.88930

Exponentiated coefficients; z statistics in parentheses

[+] $p < 0.1$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Findings-Hypothesis 1

Adjusted predictions with 95% CIs

Effect of Queer Linked Fate on Participation (Binomial Regression in odds ratios)
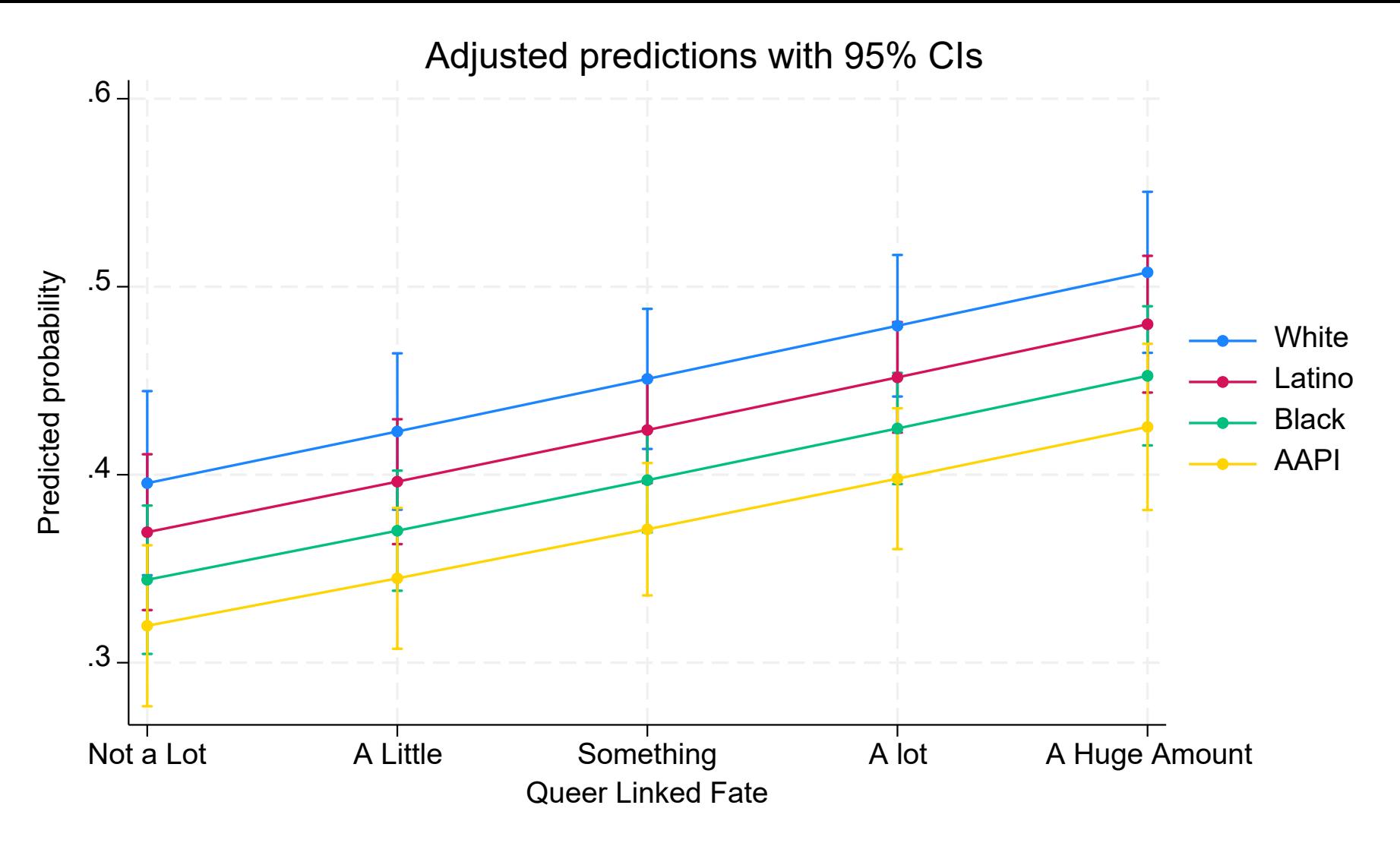
	(Participation)
participation	
Queer Linked Fate	1.11682***
	(3.83)
Female	1.06200
	(0.76)
Non-Binary	1.52878**
	(2.81)
Income	1.05208***
	(4.52)
Age	0.90571***
	(-3.59)
Race	0.89524**
	(-3.20)
Employment Status	0.95919$^+$
	(-1.82)
Trust in Local Government	1.23157***
	(3.44)
Trust in Federal Government	1.28260***
	(4.17)
Religiosity	1.07017*
	(2.15)
/	
lnsigma	0.29782***
	(-18.76)
Observations	1017
Pseudo R^2	0.036
AIC	4464.02377
BIC	4523.11912
Log lik.	-2220.01189
Chi-squared	165.32595

Exponentiated coefficients; z statistics in parentheses

$^+$ $p < 0.1$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Findings-Hypothesis 2

Adjusted predictions with 95% CIs

Discussion

- Models and Robustness checks indicate support for first hypothesis.
  - Queer Linked Fate is a positive and heavily statistically significant predictor of voting turnout amongst queer folks, reasonable explanation of variance.
- Models and Robustness checks indicate support for second hypothesis.
  - Queer Linked Fate is a positive, statistically significant predictor of non-voting behavior as well as voting, not great explanation of variance.
- Both Hypotheses are statistically significant at the .001 level.

Where Do We Go From Here?

- More work needed on Queer political behavior generally

- Immediate Next Steps
  - Refine project further: Better refining of model for participation, maybe measure non-voting participation differently.
  - Disaggregation of Queer community's linked fate measure
    - Does the community at whole matter or are people answering yes on a survey because they can't identify with their own community?
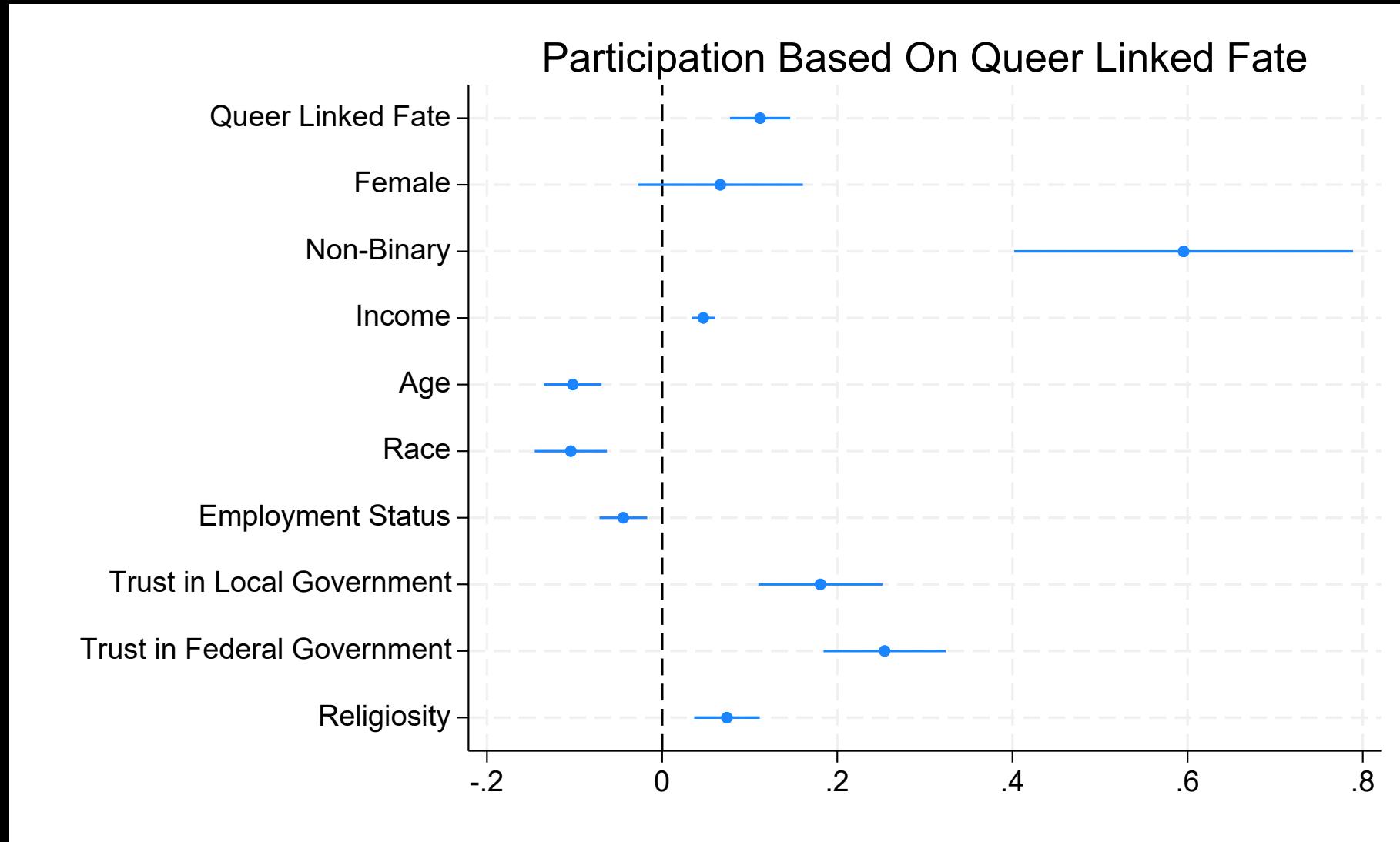
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Findings-Hypothesis 2- Normal Binomial

Participation Based On Queer Linked Fate

Findings-Hypothesis 2- Ordered Logit

Participation Based On Queer Linked Fate