Making Migration Sexy: How State and National Policies Influence Migration of Same-Sex Couples

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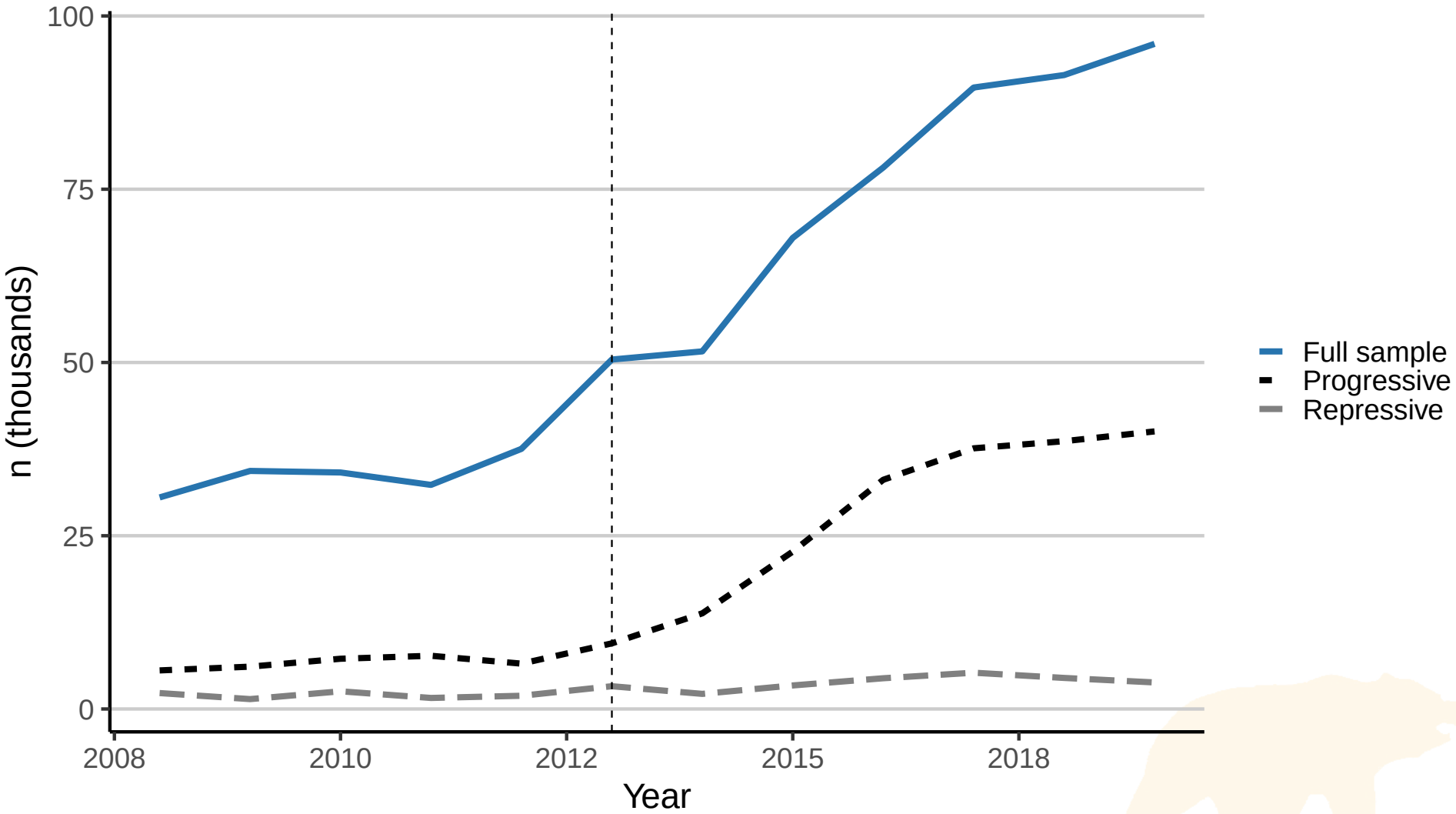
Introduction

- In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act
- From 2013 to 2019, 156% increase in mixed-citizenship same-sex couples, compared to 8% for different-sex
- LGB policy environments, both at country of origin and in U.S. states, are changing rapidly and yet, little is understood how this contributes toward the migration of immigrants in same-sex couples

Introduction



Identifying Same-Sex Couples in the ACS

- 2008 to 2019 American Community Survey (ACS)
  - immigrated at age 18 or older post-1990
- Immigrants in same-sex couples are identified as foreign-born respondents who live with a same-sex married or unmarried partner
  - This necessarily excludes single and non-cohabiting LGB individuals
- Sample of 7,011 immigrants in same-sex couples compared to 898,869 immigrants in different-sex couples

Variables

- Explanatory variables
  - Country of origin LGBT policy index (sum of 14 policies) (Velasco 2020)
  - U.S. state LGBT policy index (sum of 8 policies) (Movement Advancement Project 2020)

Methods

- Difference-in-differences-in-differences (DDD)

$$y_{gst} = \exp[\beta_0 + \beta_1 post_t + \beta_2(M_g \times post_t) + \beta_3(S_g \times post_t) + \beta_4(M_g \times S_g \times post_t) + \alpha_{gs} + \gamma_t + \epsilon_{gst}]$$

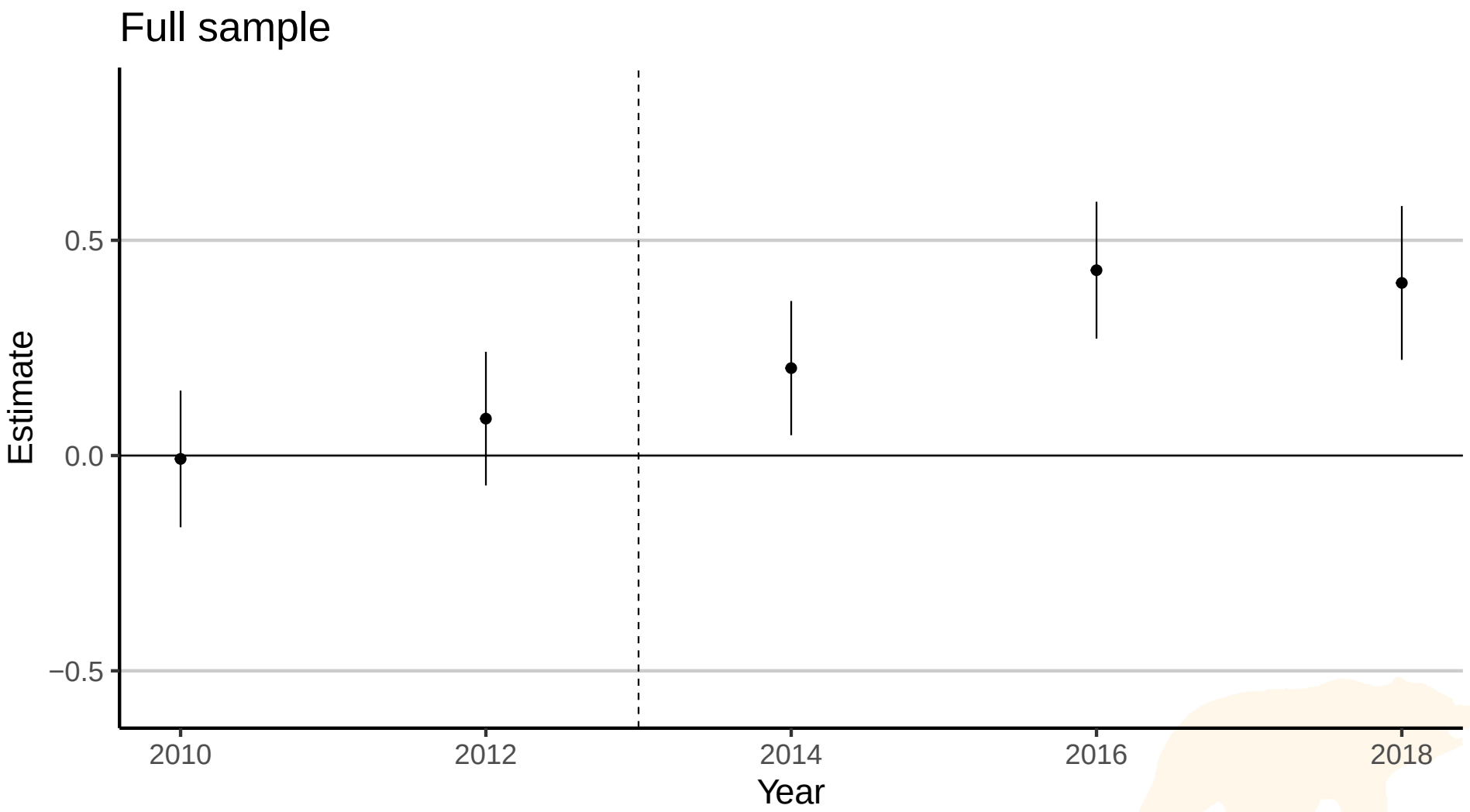
- where y_{gst} is the count of individuals in group g in state s in survey year t; $post_t$ is an indicator variable for $t > 2013$; M_g is an indicator variable for group g being mixed-citizenship; S_g is an indicator variable for group g being same-sex; α_{gs} are group-state fixed effects; γ_t are survey year fixed effects; and ϵ_{gst} is an error term such that $\mathbb{E}(\epsilon_{gst}) = 0$. - Coefficient of interest is β_4: the incidence ratio $\exp(\beta_4)$ estimates the relative increase in mixed-citizenship same-sex couples after 2013, relative to other couples.

Results

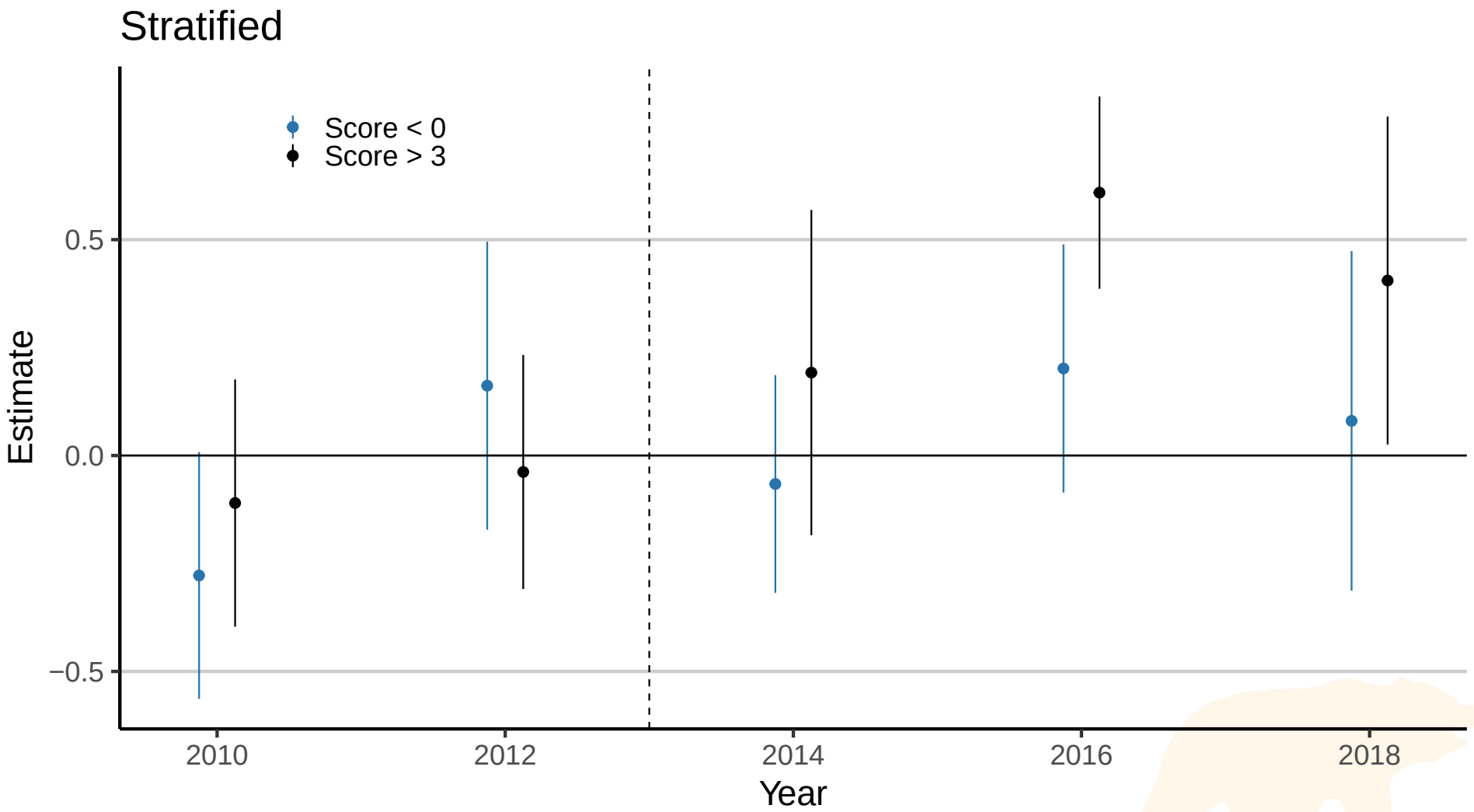
Results

Main Effects

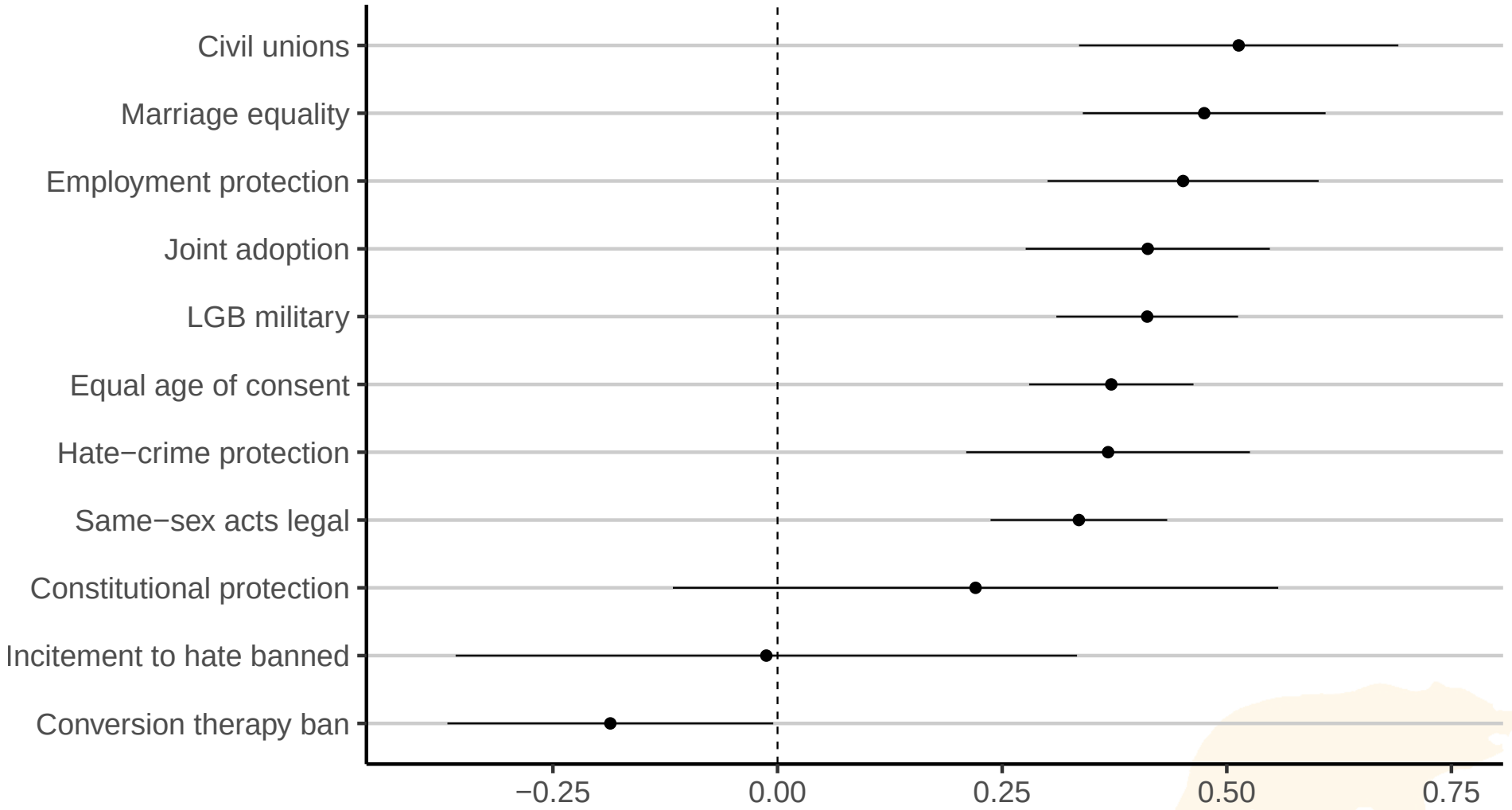
Dynamic Models



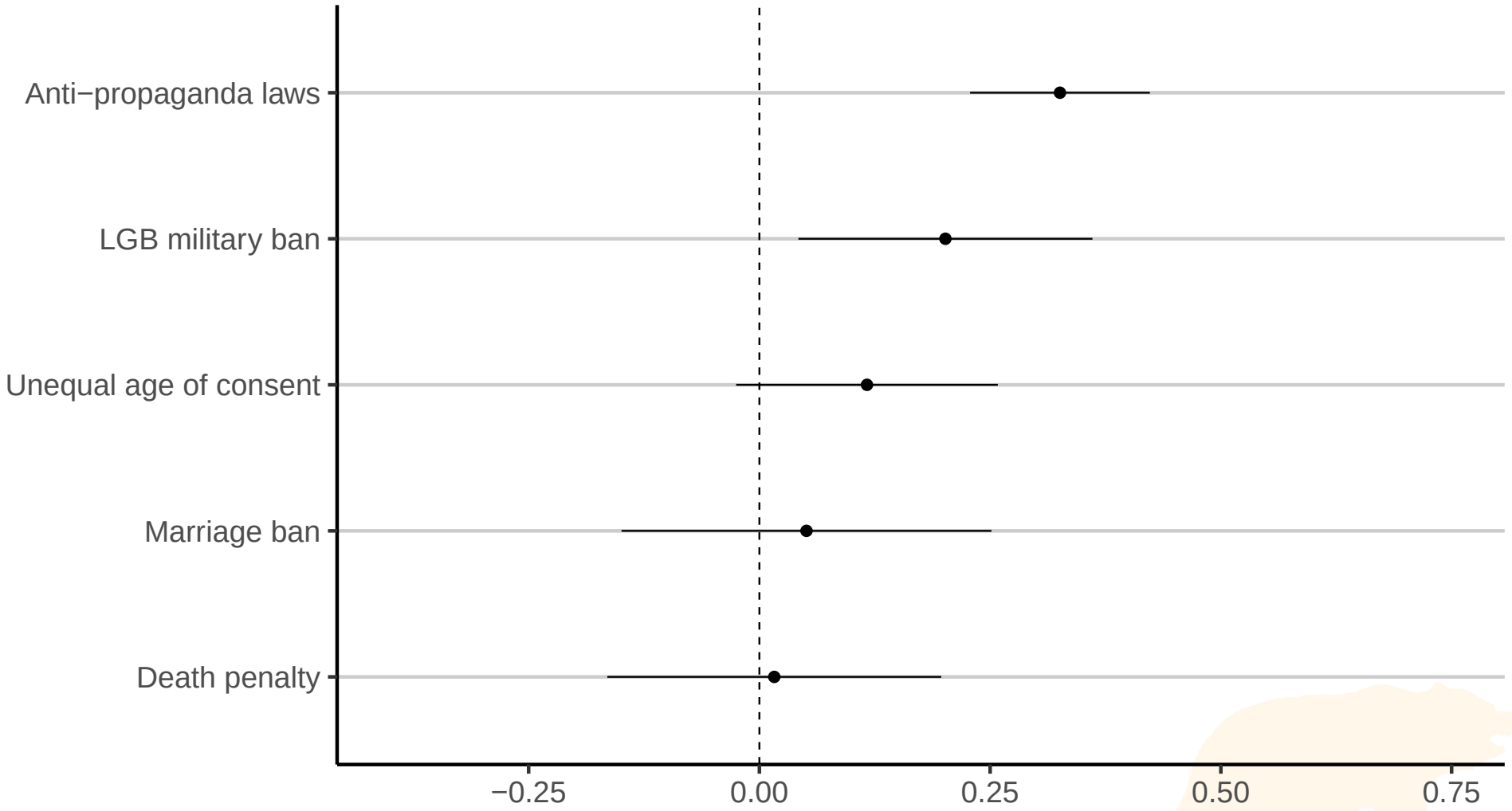
Dynamic Models



Specific Policies



Specific Policies: Progressive



Discussion

End

Thank You

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