**Problem Set 5**

PSCI 107

28 April 2021

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**Why do people like or dislike Donald Trump?**

To explain a person’s feelings towards Donald Trump, I hypothesized that a person’s political ideology would play a key role. If someone is more conservative, then they are more likely to like Trump, because he was the Republican presidential candidate—the traditionally more conservative party.

I used the variable, V161126, which asked respondents to place themselves on a 7-point ideology scale, from “Extremely Liberal” (1) to “Extremely Conservative” (7). Here are the results of the bivariate linear regression:

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| --- | --- |
| **Bivariate Regression** | |
|  | |
|  | Feeling towards Trump (0-100) |
|  | |
| Political Ideology | 12.506\*\*\* |
|  | (0.591) |
| Constant | 4.965\*\* |
|  | (2.096) |
| N | 827 |
| R2 | 0.352 |
| Adjusted R2 | 0.351 |
| Residual Std. Error | 27.218 (df = 825) |
| F Statistic | 448.052\*\*\* (df = 1; 825) |
|  | |
| \*p < .1; \*\*p < .05; \*\*\*p < .01 | |

After recoding, this intercept represents the feelings towards Trump of an extremely liberal person, which is very “cold” at about 5 “degrees.” As I hypothesized: as one’s ideology becomes more conservative, one’s feelings towards Trump increase by about 12.5 degrees. It makes more sense to interpret these effects as a shift from minimum to maximum (i.e. less conservative to more conservative).

Below is a bar plot of the mean feelings towards Trump for each ideology group:

Chart, bar chart

Description automatically generated

There is a very clear visual increase from one group to the next as each gets more and more conservative.

However, when controlling for other variables such as gender, whether the country is on the wrong or right track, and president disapproval, the effect of political ideology *decreased.* All variables were statistically significant, but the main driver of this seems to be president disapproval; those who *disapproved* of Barack Obama’s job as President were far more likely to perceive Trump *more favorably*, all else held constant.

This is supported by these variables’ substantive significance. One standard deviation shift in president disapproval alters feelings towards Trump by over 15.8 degrees, compared to political ideology at 9.6 degrees.

The multivariate regression is compared to the bivariate regression below. The intercept represents an extremely liberal female, who thinks the country is on the right track and approves of Obama.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Bivariate and Multivariate Regressions** | | |
|  | | |
|  | Feeling towards Trump (0-100) | |
|  | (1) | (2) |
|  | | |
| Political Ideology | 12.506\*\*\* | 6.009\*\*\* |
|  | (0.591) | (0.665) |
| Male |  | 3.360\*\* |
|  |  | (1.702) |
| Country on Wrong Track |  | 4.778\*\* |
|  |  | (2.130) |
| President Disapproval |  | 31.637\*\*\* |
|  |  | (2.255) |
| Constant | 4.965\*\* | 5.815\*\*\* |
|  | (2.096) | (2.236) |
| N | 827 | 789 |
| R2 | 0.352 | 0.512 |
| Adjusted R2 | 0.351 | 0.510 |
| Residual Std. Error | 27.218 (df = 825) | 23.717 (df = 784) |
| F Statistic | 448.052\*\*\* (df = 1; 825) | 205.812\*\*\* (df = 4; 784) |
|  | | |
| \*p < .1; \*\*p < .05; \*\*\*p < .01 | | |