

# Supplementary Information for “International Law as Legal Obligations or Global Standards?”

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# Distribution of response variables in the control group

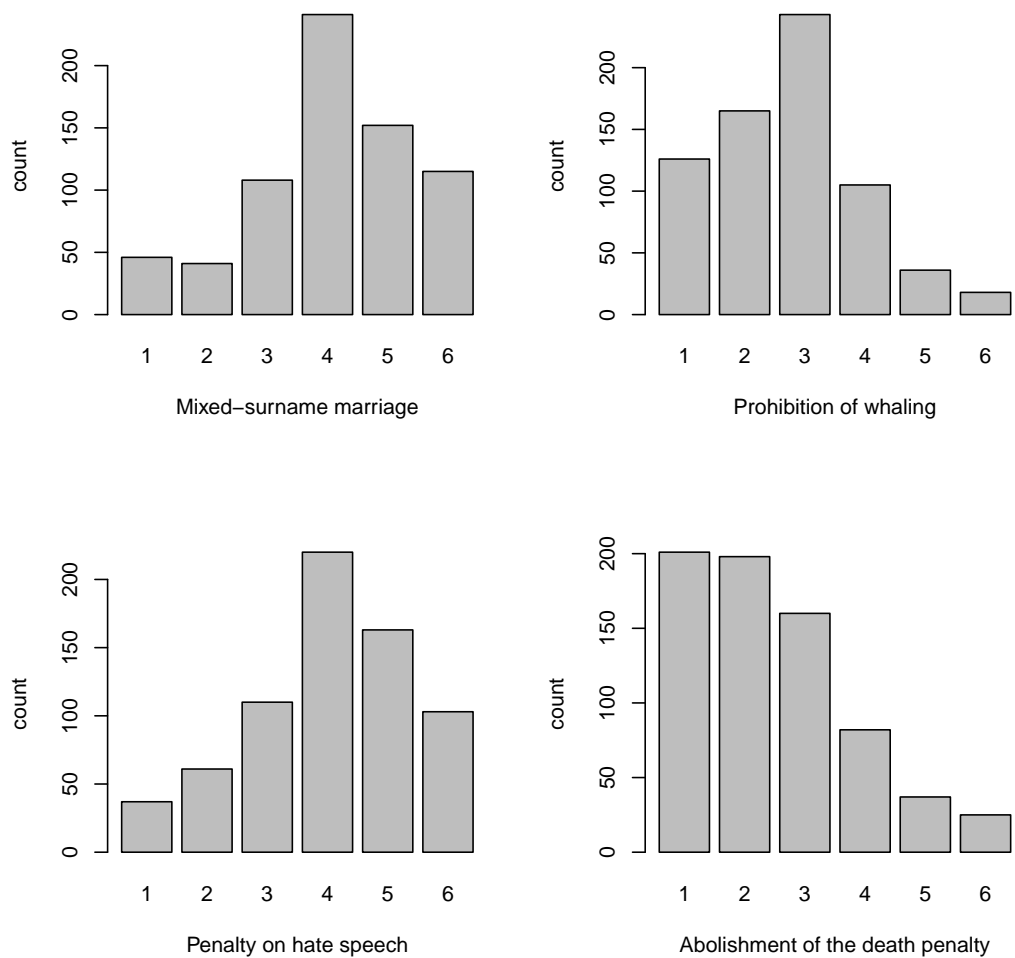


Figure SI.1: Baseline distribution of the response variables

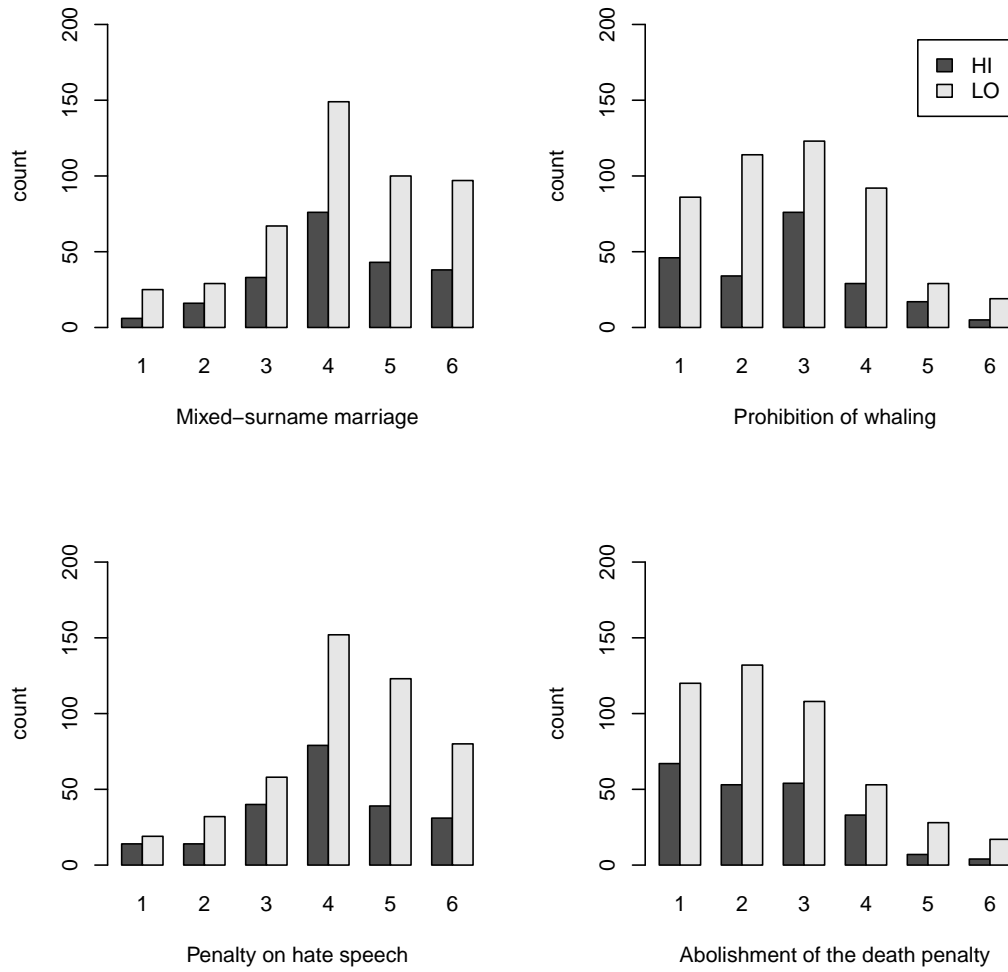


Figure SI.2: Baseline distribution of the response variable (By trust in international law)

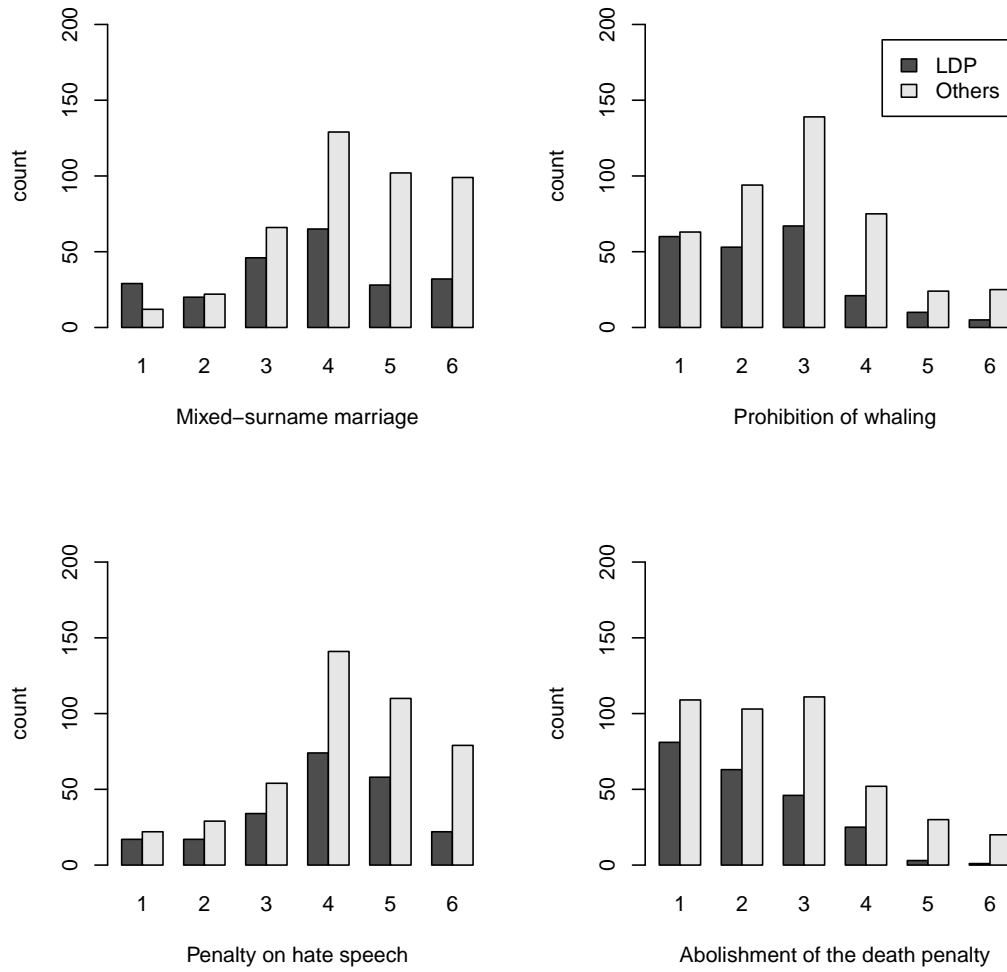


Figure SI.3: Baseline distribution of the response variable (By LDP supporter or not)

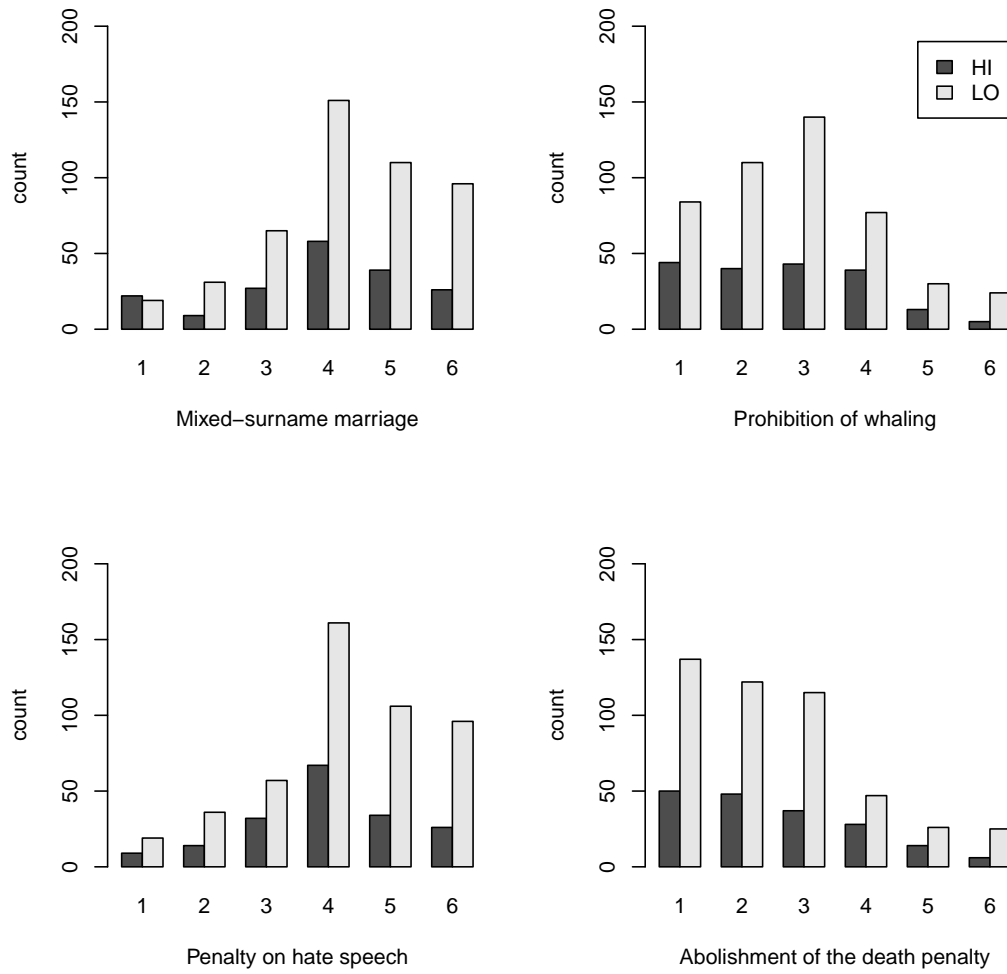


Figure SI.4: Baseline distribution of the response variable (By Japan's perceived influence in world politics)

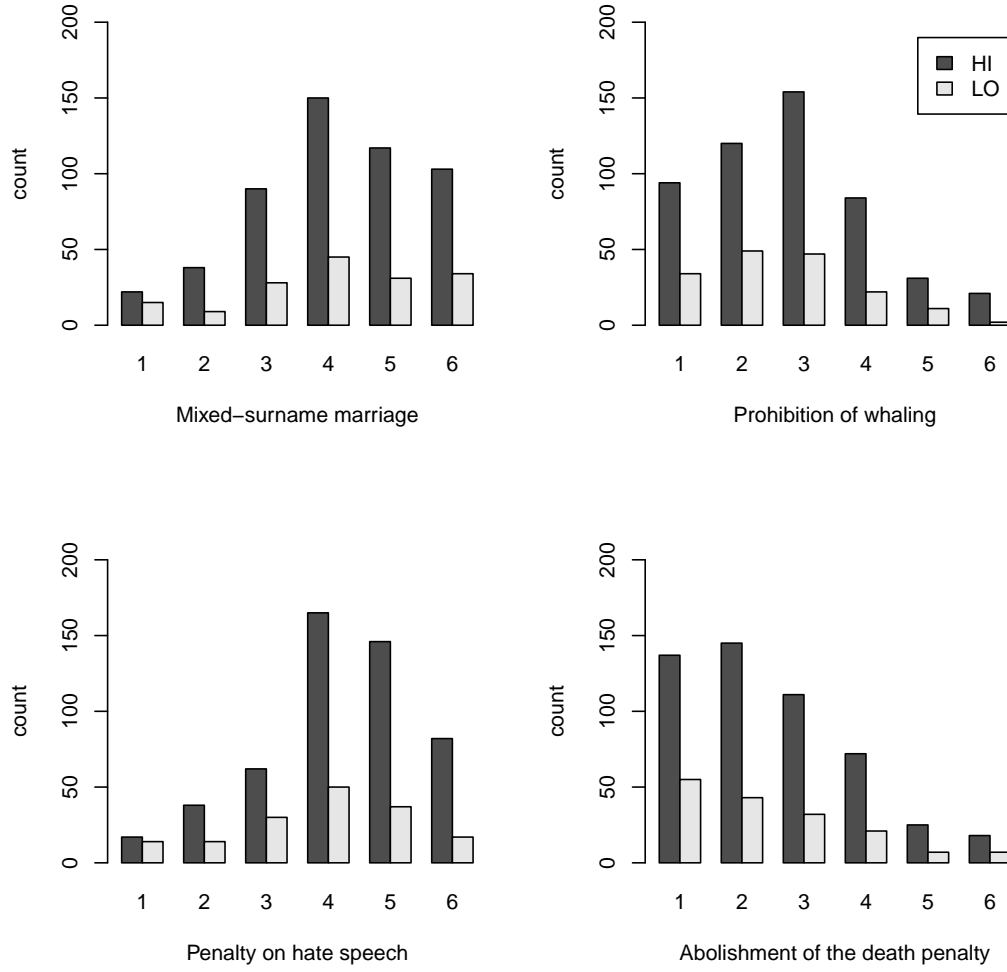


Figure SI.5: Baseline distribution of the response variable (By identification with global civil society)

## Summary statistics of the features of the respondents

Variable	Levels	n	%
Gender	Male	1531	52.8
	Female	1411	47.8
	Other	1	0.0
	NA	11	0.4
Age	19-30	474	16.0
	30-40	597	20.2
	40-50	704	23.8
	50-60	566	19.2
	60-79	613	20.8
Education	College	1688	57.1
	Not College	1230	41.6
	NA	36	1.2
Income (yen)	< 2M	264	8.9
	2M-4M	575	19.5
	4M-6M	569	19.3
	6M-8M	420	14.2
	8M-10M	286	9.7
	10M-12M	152	5.1
	12M-15M	114	3.9
	15M >	114	3.9
	DK/NA	460	15.6
Party	LDP	912	30.9
	None	1213	41.7
	Other	640	21.7
	DK	189	6.4
Cosmopolitan	1 (LOW)	75	2.5
	2	177	6.0
	3	428	14.5
	4	1248	42.2
	5	629	21.3
	6 (HIGH)	262	8.9
	NA	135	4.6

Table 1: Table of summary statistics about the respondents. The column **n** shows the number of respondents with the corresponding **Levels** of the **Variable**. The column **%** shows the proportion of such respondents. “Education” question asks the academic record and “Income” question asks the annual income (before tax) of the respondents. “Party” question asks the party they support in the long run. “Cosmopolitan” question asks the degree to which they agree to the following statement: *I feel that I am a citizen of the world.*, and the responses are measured in a 6-point Likert scale. “DK” means “Don’t know” and “NA” means “No Answer.”

## Difference between the effect of international law and global standards conditional on the trust in international law

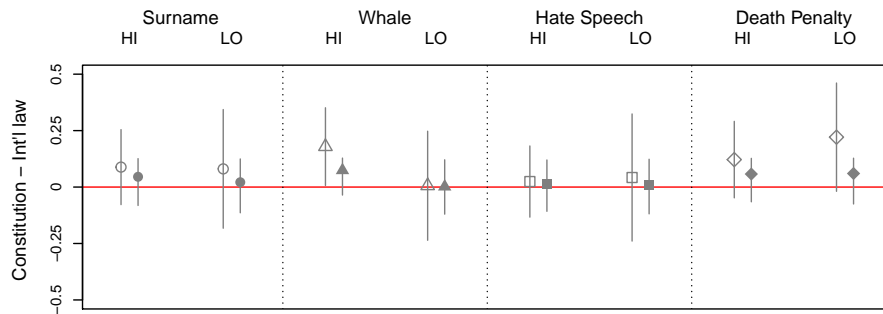


Figure SI.6: Estimated difference between the effects of the International Law and the Constitution treatments, conditional on the trust in international law. The columns correspond to the survey items: mixed-surname marriage, whaling, hate speech, and death penalty. For each item, the left (right) two bars show the conditional treatment effect among people with higher (lower) trust in international law. We do not identify a consistent pattern between people with high versus lower trust.



# Treatment effects conditional on perceptions of Japan's influence in the world politics

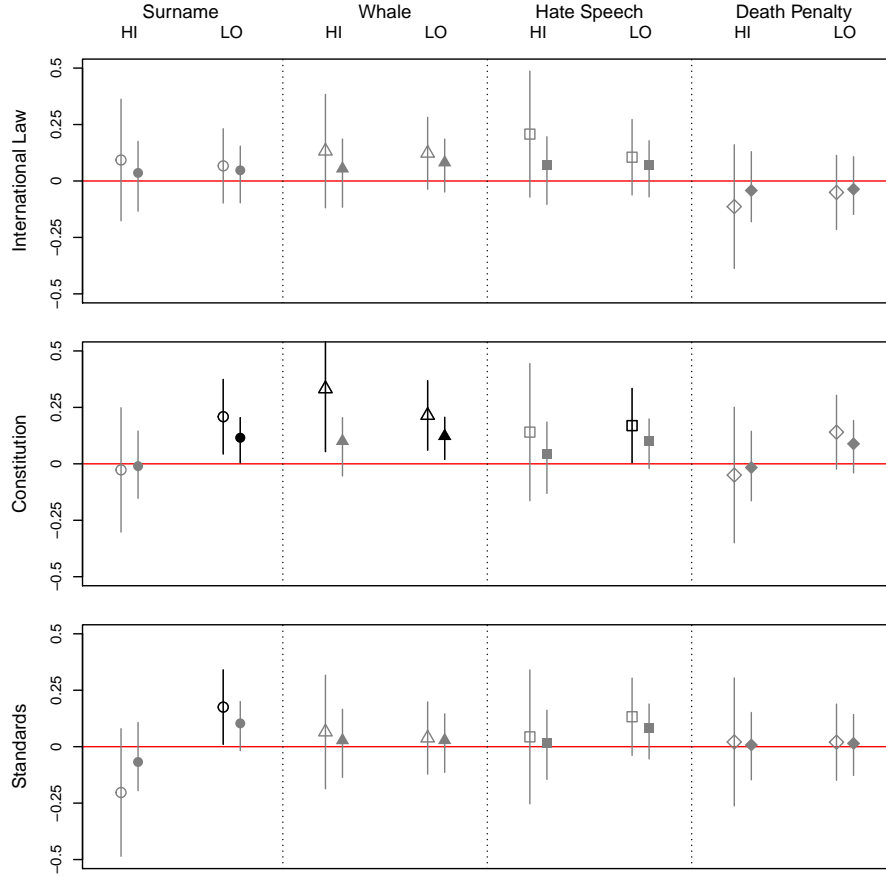


Figure SI.7: Estimated treatment effects conditional on perceptions of Japan's influence in the world politics. The columns correspond to the survey items: mixed-surname marriage, whaling, hate speech, and death penalty. For each item, the left (right) bar shows the conditional treatment effect among people with higher (lower) pride in Japan's international influence. The unfilled symbols present difference-in-means estimates with the 95% confidence intervals without multiple testing corrections. The filled symbols show the results using the adaptive shrinkage method (Stephens, 2017). Statistically significant estimates are shown in black; those that are not are in gray. The dependent variables range from 1 to 6 (Strongly disagree, Disagree, Somewhat disagree, Somewhat agree, Agree, Strongly agree). People who view Japan's influence in the world politics lightly are more likely to be influenced by the treatments.

# Survey Instrument

## Main questions

*Note: The following four questions (outcome variables) were subject to randomized treatment assignment. Respondents were randomly assigned to one of the following groups: (1) international law; (2) international law + constitution; (3) global standards; (4) control group. Each group received one of the following treatment statements.*

### Introduction to randomized questions

#### (1) International Law

At present, Japan has various systems and customs, some of which are said to be in violation of international law. The following questions ask what you would do when faced with these systems and customs, or what you think the Japanese system should be. There are no correct or wrong answers. Please tell us your honest opinion.

#### (2) Constitution

At present, Japan has various systems and customs, some of which are said to be in violation of international law. Japan is a party to various international laws, and Article 98 of the Constitution of Japan states, “The treaties concluded by Japan and established laws of nations shall be faithfully observed.” The following questions ask what you would do when faced with these systems and customs, or what you think the Japanese system should be. There are no correct or wrong answers. Please tell us your honest opinion.

#### (3) Standards

At present, Japan has various systems and customs, some of which are rare among OECD countries. The following questions ask what you would do when faced with these systems and customs, or what you think the Japanese system should be. There are no correct or wrong answers. Please tell us your honest opinion.

#### (4) Control

At present, Japan has various systems and customs. The following questions ask what you would do when faced with these systems and customs, or what you think the Japanese system should be. There are no correct or wrong answers. Please tell us your honest opinion.

### Randomized Question 1: Marriage

In Japan today, married couples must use the same surname.

#### (1) International Law

However, this system is said to be in violation of the “Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women”, of which Japan is a member.

(2) Constitution

Despite the fact that the Constitution of Japan stipulates the obligation to observe international treaties, this system is said to be in violation of the “Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women”, of which Japan is a member.

(3) Standards

However, more than 80% of OECD countries do not have such a system.

(4) Control

(Nothing)

QUESTION

Do you agree or disagree with the following opinion? Please choose one of the following options. *Strongly agree, Agree, Somewhat agree, Somewhat disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree, Do not want to answer.*

“Japan should introduce a system that allows married couples to have different family names.”

**Randomized Question 2: Whaling**

Japan has a culture and history of whaling, and whaling is still practiced in some areas.

(1) International Law

However, Japanese whaling was said to violate the “International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.” Japan withdrew from the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling last year.

(2) Constitution

Despite the fact that the Constitution of Japan stipulates the obligation to observe international treaties, Japanese whaling was said to violate the “International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.” Japan withdrew from the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling last year.

(3) Standards

However, more than 80% of OECD countries do not engage in whaling.

(4) Control

(Nothing)

QUESTION

Do you agree or disagree with the following opinion? Please choose one of the following options. *Strongly agree, Agree, Somewhat agree, Somewhat disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree, Do not want to answer.*

“Japan should stop whaling.”

### **Randomized Question 3: Hate speech**

Hate speech is a problem in Japan today. Hate speech includes biased words and deeds that encourage the expelling of or harm against a person or group of people from Japanese society, solely because they are from or are descendants of a particular country.

#### **(1) International Law**

The “International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination”, of which Japan is a member, prohibits hate speech.

#### **(2) Constitution**

The Constitution of Japan stipulates the obligation to observe international treaties, and the “International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination”, of which Japan is a member, prohibits hate speech.

#### **(3) Standards**

More than 80% of OECD countries regulate and penalize hate speech.

#### **(4) Control**

(Nothing)

### **QUESTION**

Do you agree or disagree with the following opinion? Please choose one of the following options. *Strongly agree, Agree, Somewhat agree, Somewhat disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree, Do not want to answer.*

“The government should regulate hate speech by imposing penalties.”

### **Randomized Question 4: Death penalty**

Japan currently has the death penalty.

#### **(1) International Law**

However, it is said that the death penalty in Japan violates the “International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.”

#### **(2) Constitution**

Despite the fact that the Constitution of Japan stipulates the obligation to observe international treaties, it is said that the death penalty in Japan violates the “International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.”

(3) Standards

However, more than 80% of OECD countries do not have the death penalty.

(4) Control (Nothing)

QUESTION

Do you agree or disagree with the following opinion? Please choose one of the following options. *Strongly agree, Agree, Somewhat agree, Somewhat disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree, Do not want to answer.*

“Japan should abolish the death penalty.”

## Questions about individual attitudes towards international law and politics

### Trust in international law

There are two ways of thinking about international treaties and international law. Which of the following statements is closer to your opinion? Please choose from the following options.

- A: International treaties and international law are legal norms that should be observed by countries around the world, and Japan should also observe them faithfully.
- B: The contents of international treaties and international law depend on the preferences of major powers, so it is not necessary to observe them.

Close to A (812); Relatively close to A (1102); Neither is close (500); Relatively close to B (306); Close to B (131); Do not know / Do not want to answer (103).

### Perceived Japan’s influence in the world

How proud are you of the following? Please choose from the following options.

- Japan’s political influence in the world

Very proud (107); Somewhat proud (655); Somewhat not proud (1346); Not proud at all (623); Do not know / Do not want to answer (223).

### Identification with global civil society

Different people have different senses of belonging to different groups. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following opinions?

- I feel that I am a citizen of the world.

Strongly agree (262); Agree (629); Somewhat agree (1248); somewhat disagree (428); Disagree (177); Strongly disagree (75); Do not know / Do not want to answer (135).

### **Party identification**

Many people think, “In the long run, I am pro-XX party.” Of course it is possible to vote for other parties in the short term, but in the long run, would you say, “I am pro-XX party”? Please choose one party from the following.

Liberal Democratic Party (912); Constitutional Democratic Party (151); Democratic Party for the People (32); Komeitō (75); Japan Communist Party (94); Nippon Ishin (Japan Innovation Party, 172); Social Democratic Party (19); Reiwa Shinsengumi (49); The Party to Protect Citizens from NHK (33); Other political organizations (15); No political party (1213); Do not know / Do not want to answer (189).

## References

Stephens, M. (2017). False discovery rates: A new deal. *Biostatistics*, 18(2):275–294.