European Union's Crisis Responses: Identity Formation and Foreign Policy Discourse

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Introduction

In periods of international crisis, the European Union (EU) has often found itself as a decisional actor as well as a mediator, leading by example the standard crisis response that its member states and other countries should adopt. The influence it holds as a supranational, intergovernmental organization with considerable economic and political leverage in Europe and global markets speaks to its legitimacy as a respected entity trusted by member states and their citizens to uphold European values and human rights. However, its putative reputation projects an image of the EU as a monolithic bloc that does not shy away from overstepping the national sovereignty of its members. Over the years, the perception of the EU sourced conspiracies and deceptive political platforms has stoked speculation about its role and purpose for its member states, leaving out its principal parliamentary, judicial, and diplomatic components. Popular misconceptions about its status as a strategic international actor with normative and legal authority purports that EU operations harm domestic policies and economies by trying to uniformize Europe, or at least its member states. Painting the EU in that view is a disservice to the plurality of ethnic, linguistic, and religious identities under the regional organization.

By brushing aside the multiplicity of identities within the EU, dominant discourses overlook the complex relations among and between members and non-members that adds layers of complexity to interpreting what the EU's identity (Ammaturo 2019, 549), particularly during times of crisis. Although the EU Council's foreign policy responses set out the political priorities of the organization (European Council., n.d.). Approaching crisis management apparatuses of EU members and the organization itself from a critical view requires enough nuance to distinguish national and partisan interests that impact the foriegn policy making. Essentially, what does the EU's foreign policy discourse tell us about its collective identity and that of its member states? As much as individual EU member states adhere to constitutive treaties that delegates power to the EU, the EU Council establishes the moral stance to take on issues threatening the EU, Europe, and, to some degree, global order. Both national and supranational units of analyses reveal the ideas and factors that drive identity-formation processes.

This paper will elaborate on the relationship between discursive patterns of the EU's foreign policy system and its identity as a supranational, intergovernmental organization. It asks whether EU foreign policy discourse tends to exclude certain identities, reflect a strategic agenda driven by either economic, political, or security motives, and remain morally consistent. Additionally, what norms seem to come up more frequently in the EU Council's official policies regarding geopolitical crises, more specifically the ones involving Russian aggression on European soil against non-EU members.

Table 1: Descriptive statistics

| Variables | Georgia | Ukraine | |
	Russo-Georgian War	Crimean Annexation	Ukraine Invasion*
Discursive Patterns			
Tactical language	1	2	6
Rhetorical language	3	3	0
Threat to EU	2	4	6
Exclusive identity	1	3	6
Verb tense	4	2	1
Passive voice	3	3	0
Textual features			
Human rights	1	1	5
Territorial sovereignty	2	5	4
Peace	3	4	4
Security	3	4	6
Democracy	0	5	4
Social development	0	2	4
Economic development	2	4	5
Sanctions			
# issued	0	5	5
Targets states	0	1	3
Targets individuals	0	4	3
Total (n = 15)	4	5	6

* (likely to change)

Literature Review

Foreign Policy Analysis

To begin, t

EU identity

Hypotheses

Methodology

Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches
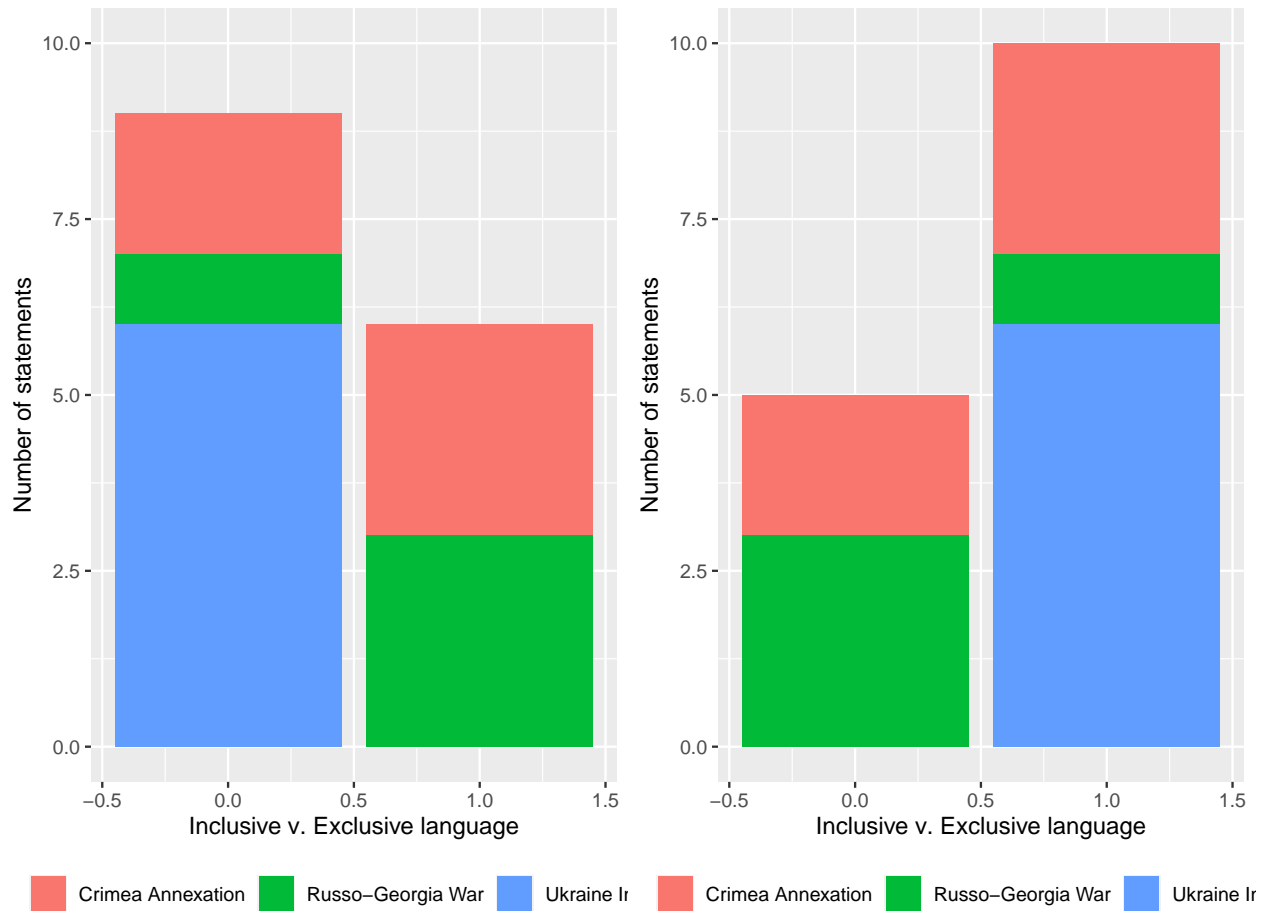
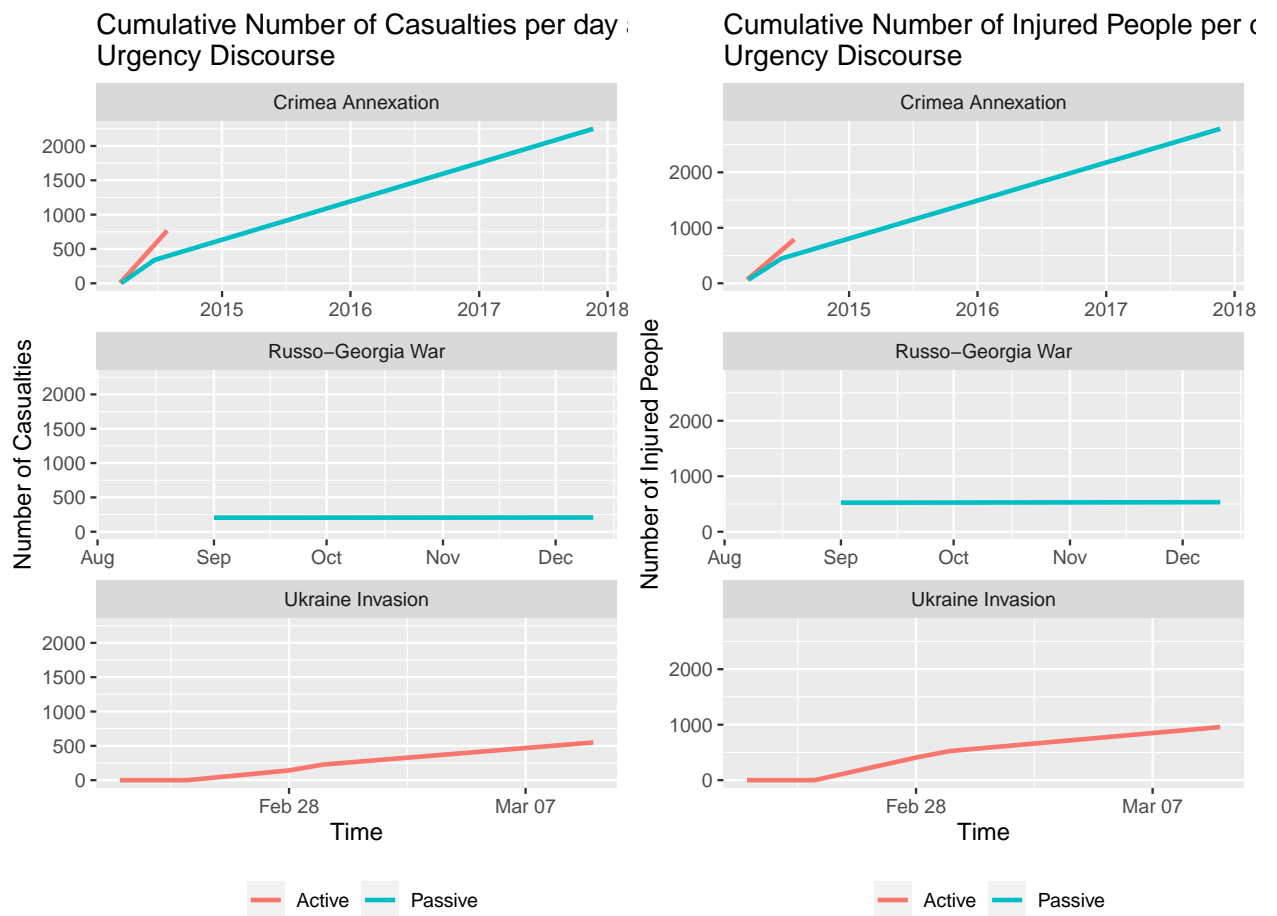### *Data Collection and Manipulation*

Results

r kable2

```
require(gridExtra)

plot5 <- active_graph

plot6 <- memb_graph

grid.arrange(plot5, plot6, ncol=2)
```
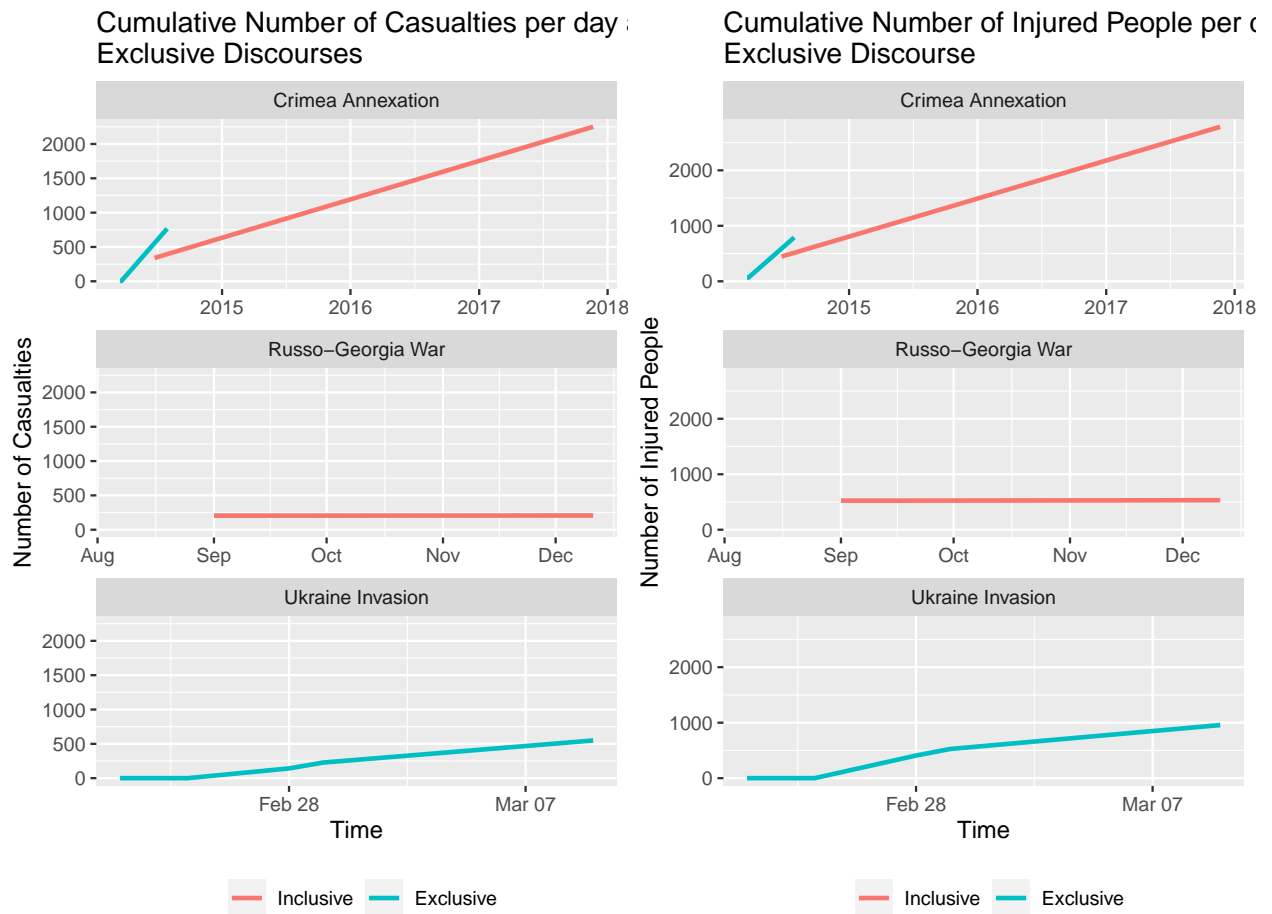


```
require(gridExtra)

plot1 <- act_con_graph1

plot2 <- act_con_graph2

grid.arrange(plot1, plot2, ncol=2)
```

3

Cumulative Number of Casualties per day and Urgency Discourse

Cumulative Number of Injured People per day and Urgency Discourse

```r
require(gridExtra)

plot3 <- mem_con_graph1

plot4 <- mem_con_graph2

grid.arrange(plot3, plot4, ncol=2)
```

4

Cumulative Number of Casualties per day
Exclusive Discourses

Cumulative Number of Injured People per day
Exclusive Discourse

Discussion

Reference List

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