Paper: Solidarity and Performance Voting’

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Abstract

Respondents support high levels of cash and vaccine transfers to help poorer nations. They are more supportive when health and economic risks of failing to provide support are high; but for the most part support does not depend on these calculations. Preferences over German policy are largely independent of what other countries are doing. Median support for vaccines (90 million) and cash (2 billion) corresponds closely to actual (100 million doses and 2.2 billion cash).

Contents

Introduction

Design

Results

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figure_1
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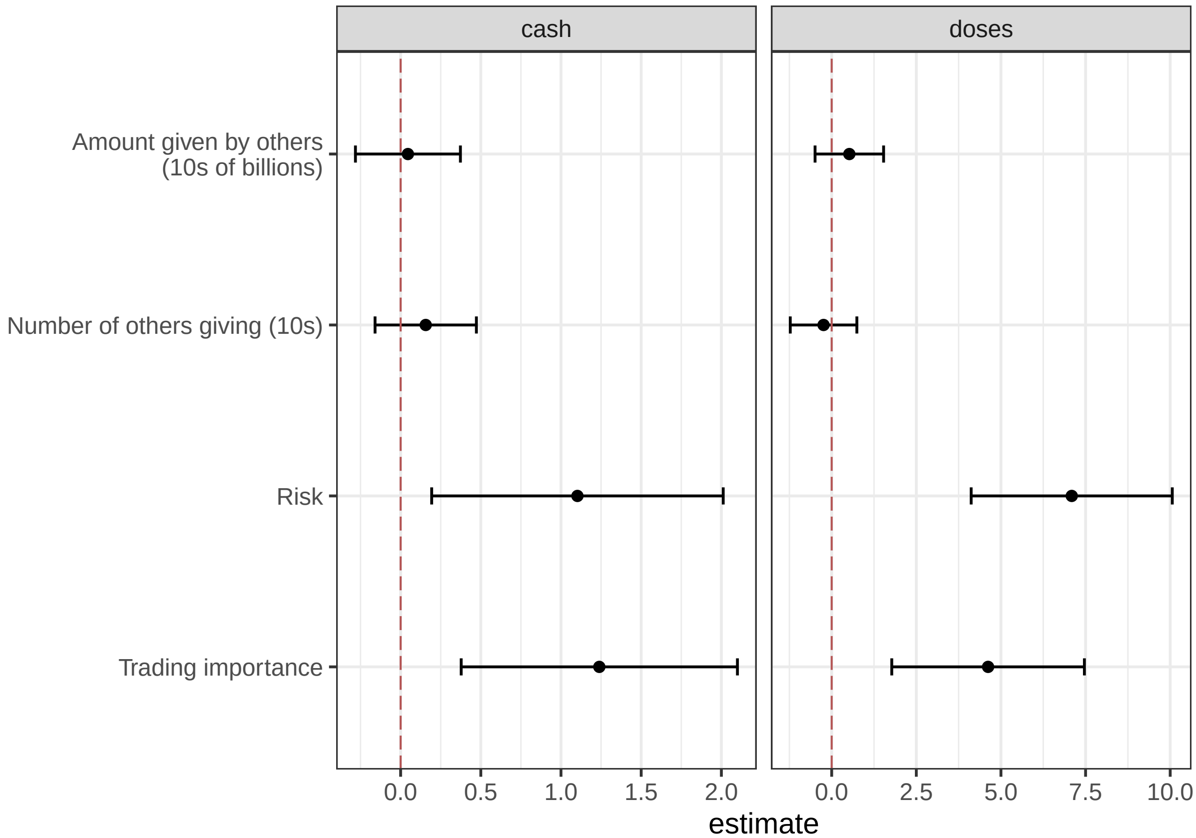


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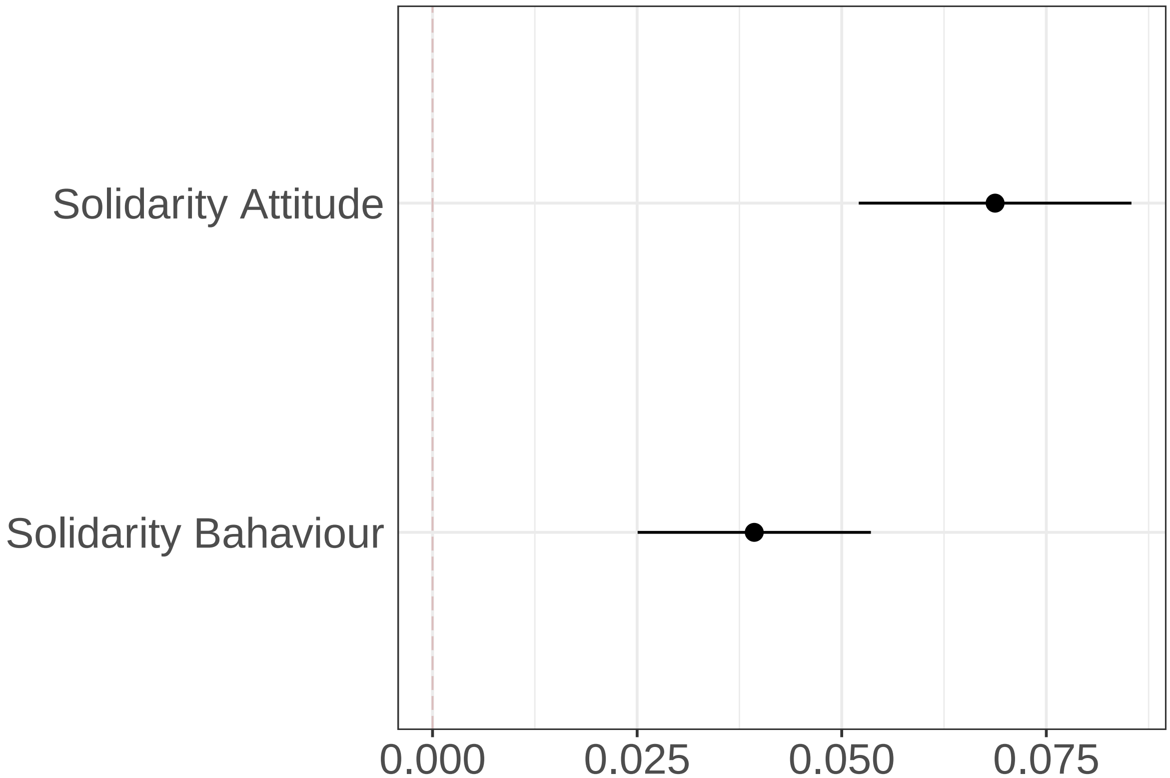

In our pre-analysis plan we stipulated a model in which citizens place a value on own contributions x_i, given contributions by others $n\overline{x}_{-i}$. Their utility reflects gains from total contributions, which reflect both altruism and risks, costs of own contributions. and costs of deviation from a norm of giving in line with contributions by others.

Unfortunately the imprecision on our estimates of responses to contributions by others prevents us from generating reliable estimates from this model. To see this consider a simplification in which utility is given by:

$$u_i = (\alpha + \beta Z_1 + \delta Z_2)\,(n_{-i}\overline{x}_{-i} + x_i) - x_i^2 - \gamma(x_i - \overline{x}_{-i})^2$$

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Optimal contributions are then given by:

$$x_i^* = \frac{\alpha_i}{1+\gamma} + \frac{\beta}{2+2\gamma}Z_1 + \frac{\delta}{2+2\gamma}Z_2 + \frac{\gamma}{1+\gamma}\overline{x}_{-i}$$

The parameters here can be estimated with ordinary least squares. However imprecision on estimates of the effect of actions by others produces still greater uncertainty over γ which in turn propogates to all other parameters.[1]

[1] The model in the pre-analysis plan has utility:

$$(\alpha_i + \beta_i Z_1 + \delta Z_2)\log\left(\sum_j x_j\right) - x_i^2 - \gamma(x_i - \kappa\overline{x}_{-i})^2$$

which in turn implies optimal contributions given by:

Discussion

$$x_i^* = \frac{-(n_{-i} + \gamma(n_{-i} - \kappa))\overline{x}_{-i} + \sqrt{((n_{-i} + \gamma(n_{-i} - \kappa))\overline{x}_{-i})^2 + 4(1+\gamma)(\gamma\kappa n_{-i}\overline{x}_{-i}^2 + (\alpha_i + \beta_i Z_1 + \delta Z_2)/2)}}{2(1+\gamma)}$$

We see again that γ appears in the denominator.