

Effects of Public Announcements by Political and Social Decision-Makers on Prejudices and Attitudes Towards Refugees: *Results from Two Survey Experiments*

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MOTRA – Monitoring System & Transfer Platform Radicalisation

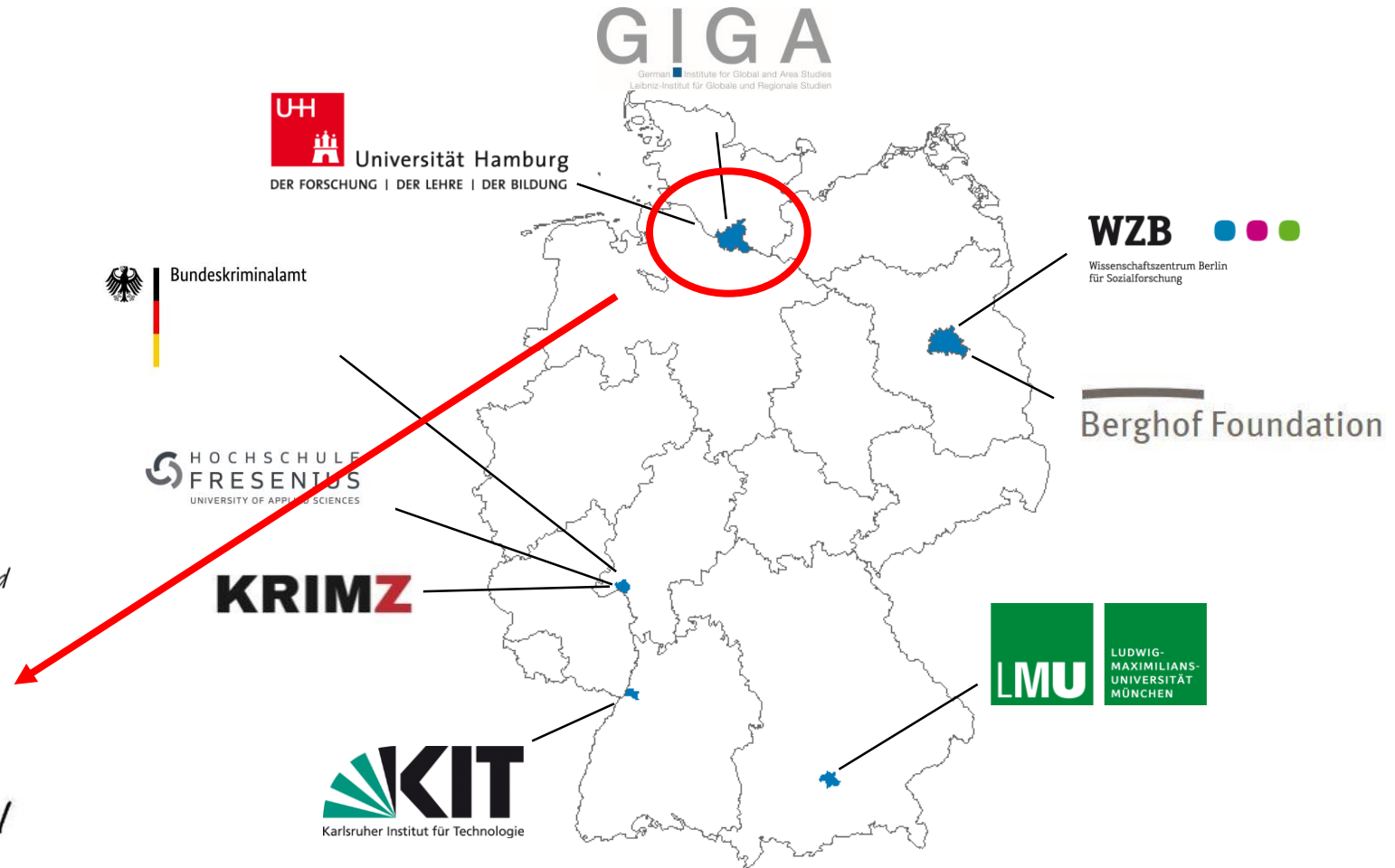
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<https://www.motra.info/>

MiD
Menschen in Deutschland

JuMiD
Junge Menschen in Deutschland

MiDInt
Menschen in Deutschland: International



The Study „People in Germany: International“

MiDInt

Menschen in Deutschland: International

Research Interest:

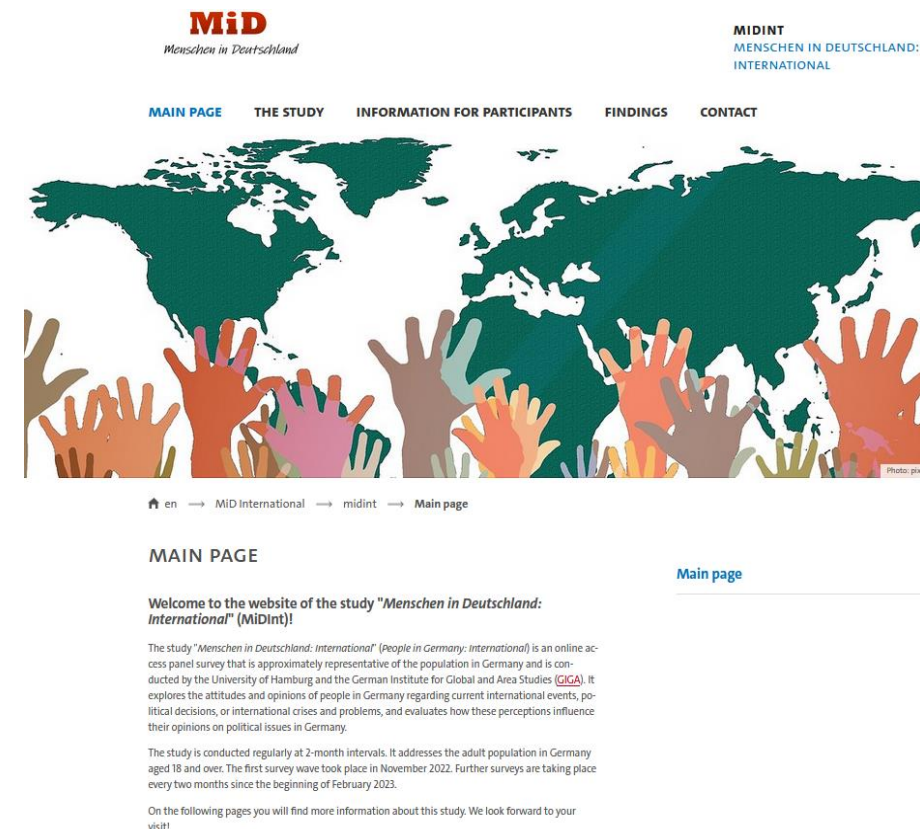
Effects of international events & developments outside of Germany on political radicalisation, extremism, antisemitism, islamophobia, and xenophobia in Germany

Method:

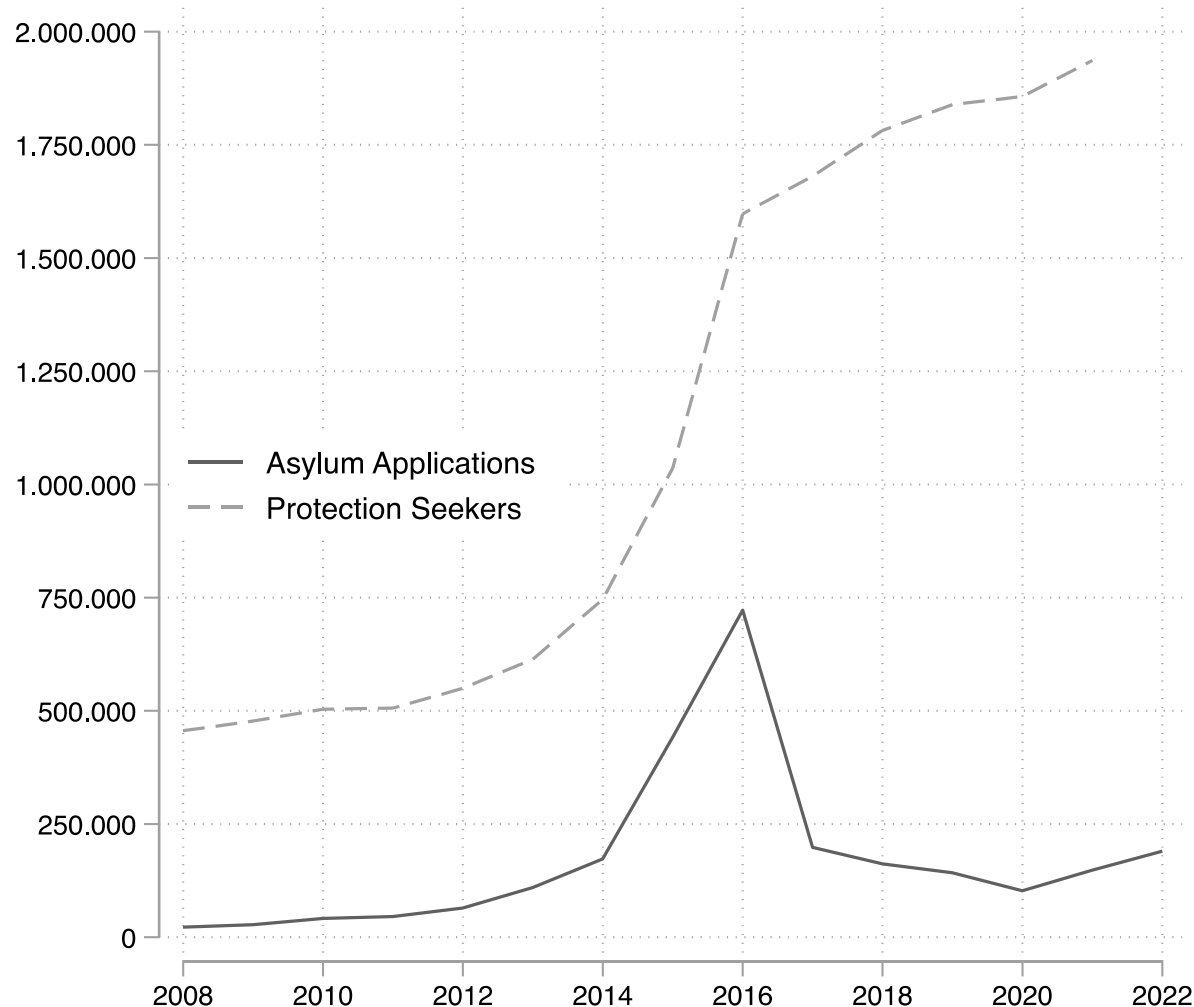
Regularly repeated (every second month) online surveys of persons aged 18yrs and older living in Germany

Quota-Sample (n=between 2.500 & 3.500) based on the Online-Access-Panel of Bilendi S.A. (Germany: 300.000)

<https://www.mid.uni-hamburg.de/en/mid-international/midint/midint-startseite.html>



Refugees in Germany



Among the most heated German domestic political debates:

- Municipalities lament to high additional (financial) burdens
- Right wingers and conservatives warn against over-foreignisation (Überfremdung) and loss of german cultural identity
- But, some business associations stress the options to acquire new workforce
- Human rights organisations emphasis asylum as a universal human right

Study 1: Sample

MiDInt

Menschen in Deutschland: International

1st wave of MiDInt conducted from

11th to 21st of November 2022

Sample: n = 2 429 adults (18 +)

Forschungsbericht No. 7

Menschen in Deutschland: International (MiDInt)

Untersuchungsdesign, Stichprobe,
Erhebungsinstrument und Codebuch zu Welle 1
(Nov. 2022)

Katrin Brettfield, Diego Farren, Janosch Kleinschnittger,
Thomas Richter & Peter Wetzels



Institut für Kriminologie an der Fakultät für Rechtswissenschaft der Universität Hamburg

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Study 1: Measures of Attitudes toward Refugees

Prejudices

Integration Measures

| Attitudes toward Refugees (only control group, n=417) | strongly disagree | somewhat disagree | somewhat agree | completely agree |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|
| The immigration of refugees brings more violent criminals into our country. | 12.5% | 26.4% | 37.3% | 61,1% 23.8% |
| Refugees threaten our way of life and our values in Germany. | 20.5% | 34.5% | 27.5% | 44,9% 17.4% |
| Refugees living here do more harm than good to our economy. | 18.0% | 37.0% | 28.4% | 45% 16.6% |
| People who have fled to Germany should be naturalised more quickly. | 24.8% | 39.3% | 28.9% | 35,9% 7.0% |
| School and vocational qualifications of refugees should be recognised more unbureaucratically in Germany. | 13.5% | 25.2% | 47.1% | 61,3% 14.2% |
| I would like it if housing were made available for refugees in my neighbourhood. | 27.6% | 30.8% | 34.1% | 41,6% 7.5% |

Study 1: Main Findings from a Vignette Experiment

Richter / Kleinschnittger /
Brettfeld / Wetzels (2023)

<https://www.giga-hamburg.de/de/publikationen/giga-focus/bedrohung-und-integration-einstellungen-zu-fluechtligen-in-deutschland>

GIGA Focus Global

Bedrohung und Integration: Einstellungen zu Flüchtlingen in Deutschland

Nummer 1 | 2023 | ISSN: 1862-3581

GIGA Focus

Open Access

Weitere Inhalte zum Thema



Seit dem Jahr 2015 hat sich die Zahl der anerkannten Schutzsuchenden in Deutschland nahezu verdoppelt. Im Jahresverlauf 2022 ist die Zahl der Menschen mit ukrainischer Staatsbürgerschaft auf fast 1 Million angestiegen. Für das Jahr 2023 wird eine Transferplattform Radikalisierung

Study 1: Main Findings from a Vignette Experiment

First, a text based confrontation (vignette) with **negative consequences of the further admission of refugees** (capacity shortages & over-foreignisation (Überfremdung)) did not cause a significant increase of anti-refugee attitudes.

→ possibility of „ceiling effect“

Second, there are several significant effects caused by **positive statements** (labour market & asylum as a universal human right).

For instance, **when people were reminded of the right to asylum as an universal human right**, this cause a significant decrease of anti-refugee prejudices.

→ Extension of the vignette experiment.

New Experiment with only positive statements in different vignettes, but different speakers to analyse the effects of the kind of speakers

Study 2: Sample

MiDInt

Menschen in Deutschland: International

2nd wave of MiDInt conducted from

8th to 22nd February 2023

Sample: n = 2 428 adults (18 +)

Forschungsbericht No. 8

Menschen in Deutschland: International (MiDInt)

Untersuchungsdesign, Stichprobe,
Erhebungsinstrument und Codebuch zu Welle 2
(Feb. 2023)

Janosch Kleinschnittger, Diego Farren, Katrin Brettfeld,
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Study 2: Measures of Attitudes toward Refugees

Prejudices

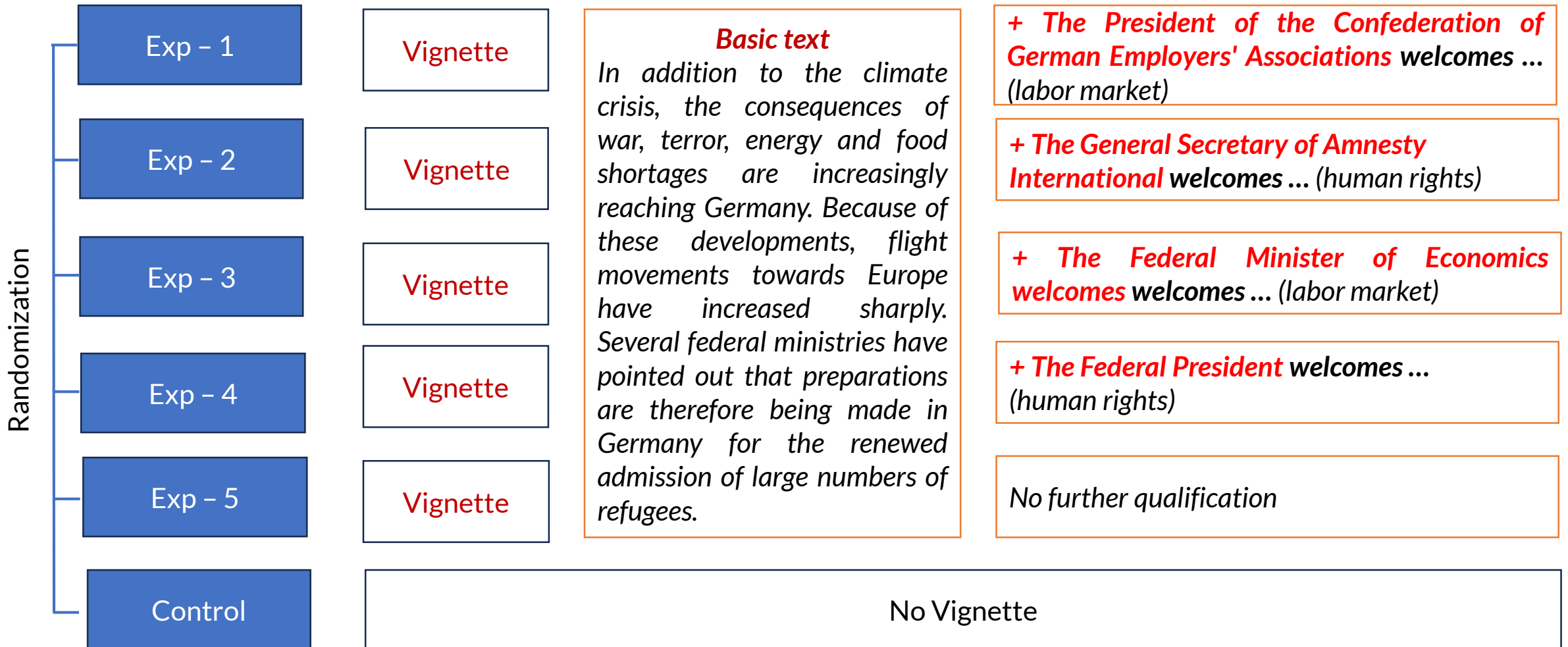
Integration Measures

| Attitudes toward Refugees (only from the control group, n=417) | strongly disagree | somewhat disagree | somewhat agree | completely agree |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| The immigration of refugees brings more violent criminals into our country. | 12,2% (12.5%) | 27,5% (26.4%) | 30,68% (37.3%) | 60,32% (23.8%) |
| Refugees threaten our way of life and our values in Germany. | 22,2% (20.5%) | 30,79% (34.5%) | 28,44% (27.5%) | 47,4% (17.4%) |
| Refugees living here do more harm than good to our economy. | 20,59% (18.0%) | 33,75% (37.0%) | 28,27% (28.4%) | 45,7% (16.6%) |
| People who have fled to Germany should be naturalised more quickly. | 31,5% (24.8%) | 34,3% (39.3%) | 27,7% (28.9%) | 35,9% (7.0%) |
| School and vocational qualifications of refugees should be recognised more unbureaucratically in Germany. | 14,3% (13.5%) | 24,8% (25.2%) | 42,7% (47.1%) | 60,9% (14.2%) |
| I would like it if housing were made available for refugees in my neighbourhood. | 31,8% (27.6%) | 26,3% (30.8%) | 33,6% (34.1%) | 42% (7.5%) |

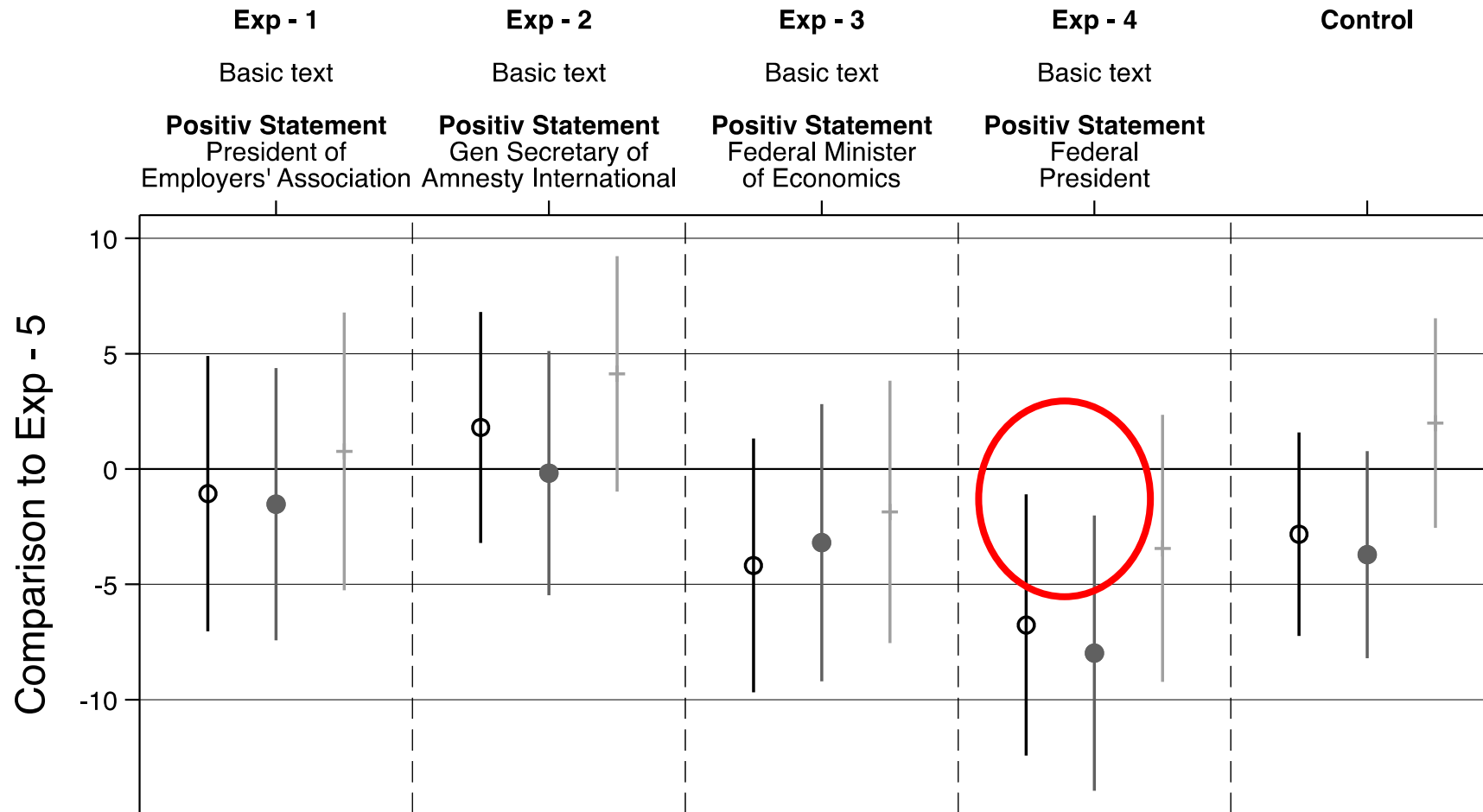
Study 2: Hypotheses

- H1: Speakers who make positive references to the influx of refugees and represent **a moral authority** will cause a significant decrease of prejudices against refugees.
- H2: Speakers who make positive references to the influx of refugees and represent **an economic authority** will cause a significant increase of accepting integration measures directed at the social integration of refugees.

Study 2: Experimental Design

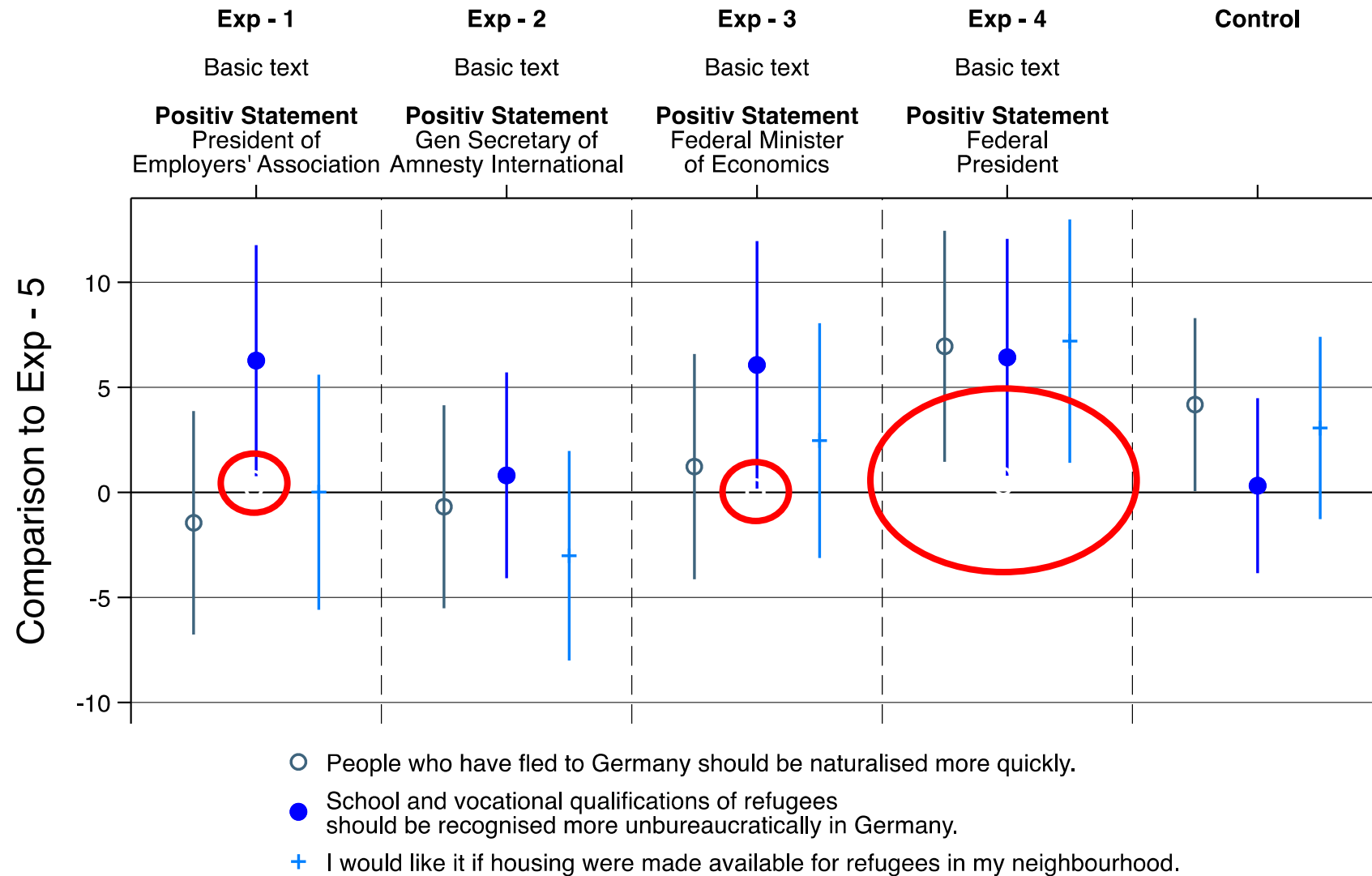


Study 2: Results for Prejudices (comparison to Exp - 5)



- The immigration of refugees brings more violent criminals into our country.
- Refugees threaten our way of life and our values in Germany.
- +

Study 2: Results for Integration Measures (comp. to Exp - 5)



Study 2: Conclusion

First, a positive framing with the Federal President of Germany as a speaker has multiple positive causal effects ...

- ... reduces „prejudices“ against refugees
 - ... increases support for „integration measures“ for refugees
 - ... only for the statement „Refugees do more harm than good for our economy“ the effect is insignificant
- This speaks to the positive effects of the moral authority of the German Federal President on attitudes of the people towards refugees (H1 confirmed)

Second, a positive framing with the President of the Employers' Association & the Federal Minister of Economics as speakers has only one causal effect ...

- ... regarding the unbureaucratic recognition of school and vocational qualifications of refugees.
- This speaks to the economic authority of both (H2 partly confirmed)

Study 1 & Study 2: Consequences

Consequences for Politics

- How to use the moral authority of the Federal President of Germany in a more targeted way (e.g. signing the new Naturalization Law of Germany as a public event?)

Consequences for Research

- Add direct item asking about the acceptance of the Federal President
- Think about similar moral authorities in other countries and at the international levelItem zum Bundespräsidenten könnten wir zusätzlich aufnehmen

Thank you for your attention!

Study „MiDInt“
<https://www.mid.uni-hamburg.de/en/mid-international/midint/midint-startseite.html>

Research Consortium MOTRA
<https://www.motra.info/>

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Research Reports (available online) on the samples and methodology of the MiDInt Study

Information about
the MiD-Study in
English:

Forschungsbericht No. 7

Menschen in Deutschland: International (MiDInt)

Untersuchungsdesign, Stichprobe,
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Forschungsbericht No. 8

Menschen in Deutschland: International (MiDInt)

Untersuchungsdesign, Stichprobe,
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(Feb. 2023)

Janosch Kleinschnittger, Diego Farren, Katrin Brettfield,
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Forschungsbericht No. 9

Menschen in Deutschland: International (MiDInt)

Untersuchungsdesign, Stichprobe,
Erhebungsinstrument und Codebuch zu Welle 3
(April/Mai 2023)

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Forschungsbericht No. 11

Menschen in Deutschland: International (MiDInt)

Untersuchungsdesign, Stichprobe,
Erhebungsinstrument und Codebuch zu Welle 4
(Juli/August 2023)

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Research Report No. 1

"People in Germany 2021"

First wave of the German national representative survey:
Methodology, survey design and sampling

Rebecca Endrucht, Diego Farren, Katrin Brettfield,
Jannik M.K. Fischer & Peter Wetzels



<http://doi.org/10.25592/uuhfdm.12244>