

Fair Support for Asylum Seekers in Germany

**Determining Perceived Financial
Deservingness using a Survey Experiment**

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Demographic change, migration and integration

University of Jena, 2017-09-12

Introduction

Current Situation

- Currently around 65 Million people are currently fleeing (United Nations)
- Over 2.5 million asylum request in Europe in the last two years (Eurostat)
- Over 1 million Asylum request in Germany (BAMF)
- In consequence political and social debates about
 - How many refugees should we take in?
 - How do we foster their integration?
 - What should we demand from accepted asylum seekers?
 - What are the consequences for individual opportunities and welfare etc.
 - Etc.

Previous Research

Attitudes to Asylum Seekers

- Limited access to the country (Bansak, Hainmueller, and Hangartner, 2016; Czymara and Schmidt-Catran, 2016)
 - Low SES; economic motives to migrate; Muslims; language proficiency
- Limited access to the welfare system
 - Perceived as a burden (Wike, Stokes, and Simmons, 2016)
 - Limit access to social benefits for (Czymara and Schmidt-Catran, 2016)
 - Low SES; economic motives to migrate; Muslims; language proficiency
- But “who should get what and why?” (Van Oorschot, 2000)

Previous Research

Welfare Chauvinism and Perceived Deservingness

- Deservingness
 - Immigrants/refugees are perceived less deserving than other groups (Appelbaum, 2002; Van Oorschot, 2008)
- Andersen and Bjørklund (1990: 212) define welfare chauvinism:
 - “the welfare services should be restricted to ‘our own’”
 - Empirical Studies found
 - Sex (~); Age (+); Marital Status (+)
 - Unemployed / Welfare Dependency (~)
 - Education (-); Income (-)
 - Conservatism / right political attitudes (+)

(Bay and Pedersen: 2006; Crepaz and Damron: 2009; Gorodzeisky and Semyonov: 2009; Hjorth: 2015; Mau and Burkhardt: 2009; Mewes and Mau: 2012; Raijman, Semyonov, and Schmidt: 2003; Reeskens and van Oorschot: 2012; van der Waal et al.: 2010; van der Waal, de Koster, and van Oorschot: 2013; van Oorschot and Uunk: 2007)

Theoretical Approach

Deservingness Perception five criteria (Van Oorschot, 2000)

Who is perceived more or less deserving?

- Control: the less responsible for the current situation, the more deserving
- Reciprocity: those who earned support in terms of prior contributions, are more deserving
- Cultural Proximity: the closer one is to the own in-group, the more deserving
- Furthermore (not further studied here):
 - Need
 - Attitude

Theoretical Approach

Further Arguments

- Preference to avoid cognitive dissonances (Festinger 1962)
 - Germans who are located at the political right have more negative views about asylum seekers, e.g. think they are exploiting the welfare state
 - Hence, when confronted with an asylum seeker that contradicts their image they struggle with cognitive dissonances
 - Dissonances can be dissolved by correcting their rather negative image (interaction effect)

Hypotheses

Control

- H1: Asylum seekers, who fled for economic reasons are perceived less deserving than those who fled because they were directly affected by violent conflicts.

Reciprocity (expected): Effort and employability

- H2a: Asylum seekers who are actively looking for a job are perceived more deserving than those who do not actively look for a job.
- H2b: Asylum seekers are perceived more deserving, the higher the employability in terms of a higher education.
- H2c: Asylum seekers with higher language skills are perceived more deserving.

Hypotheses

Identity or cultural proximity

- H3: Muslim asylum seekers are perceived less deserving than Christian and non-religious asylum seekers.

Cognitive Dissonance Avoidance

- H4: The gap between judgments towards economic asylum seekers and asylum seekers who fled war increases, the more one is located on the political right.

Data & Method

Data Collection

- End of 2016 (October - December)
- 566 Respondents (response rate: 29%)
- Online only; no incentives; 2 reminders
- Sampled in: Stuttgart, Munich, Hamburg, Dusseldorf (2 Reminders were sent)
- Questionnaire and vignette module

Data & Method

Vignette Dimensions	Number of Levels	Levels
Sex	2	- Male - Female
Age	4	25; 35; 45; 55
Reason of flight	2	- Fled because of the military conflict - Fled because of the bad economic situation
Job search	2	- Is looking for a job - Is not actively looking for a job
Education	3	- No vocational education - Vocational education - University degree
Language skills	3	- No German - Some German - Fluent German
Country of origin	3	- Syria - Eastern Ukraine - Eritrea
Denomination	3	- Muslim - No religion - . Christian
Monthly support in Eur	6	100; 200; 300; 400; 500; 600

Data & Method

Person 2



Ein 35-jähriger Mann war nicht direkt von kriegerischen Auseinandersetzungen betroffen, sondern floh aufgrund der schlechten wirtschaftlichen Lage aus Syrien und lebt seit einem Jahr in Deutschland. Er ist Moslem und spricht kaum Deutsch. Er hat einen Universitätsabschluss und sucht zurzeit nicht nach einer Arbeit.

Er erhält monatlich eine staatliche Unterstützung in Höhe von 500 EUR für die täglichen Bedürfnisse zum Leben (Kleidung, Essen etc.).

Viel zu wenig



Angemessen



Viel zu viel



Zurück

Weiter

A 35-year old man was not directly affected by the militant conflict, but fled because of the economic situation from Syria and lives in Germany for about a year. He is Muslim and speaks nearly no German. He has a University degree and is currently not looking for a job. He receives a monthly governmental support of about 500 EUR for his daily needs (clothing, food etc.)

Data & Method

Design

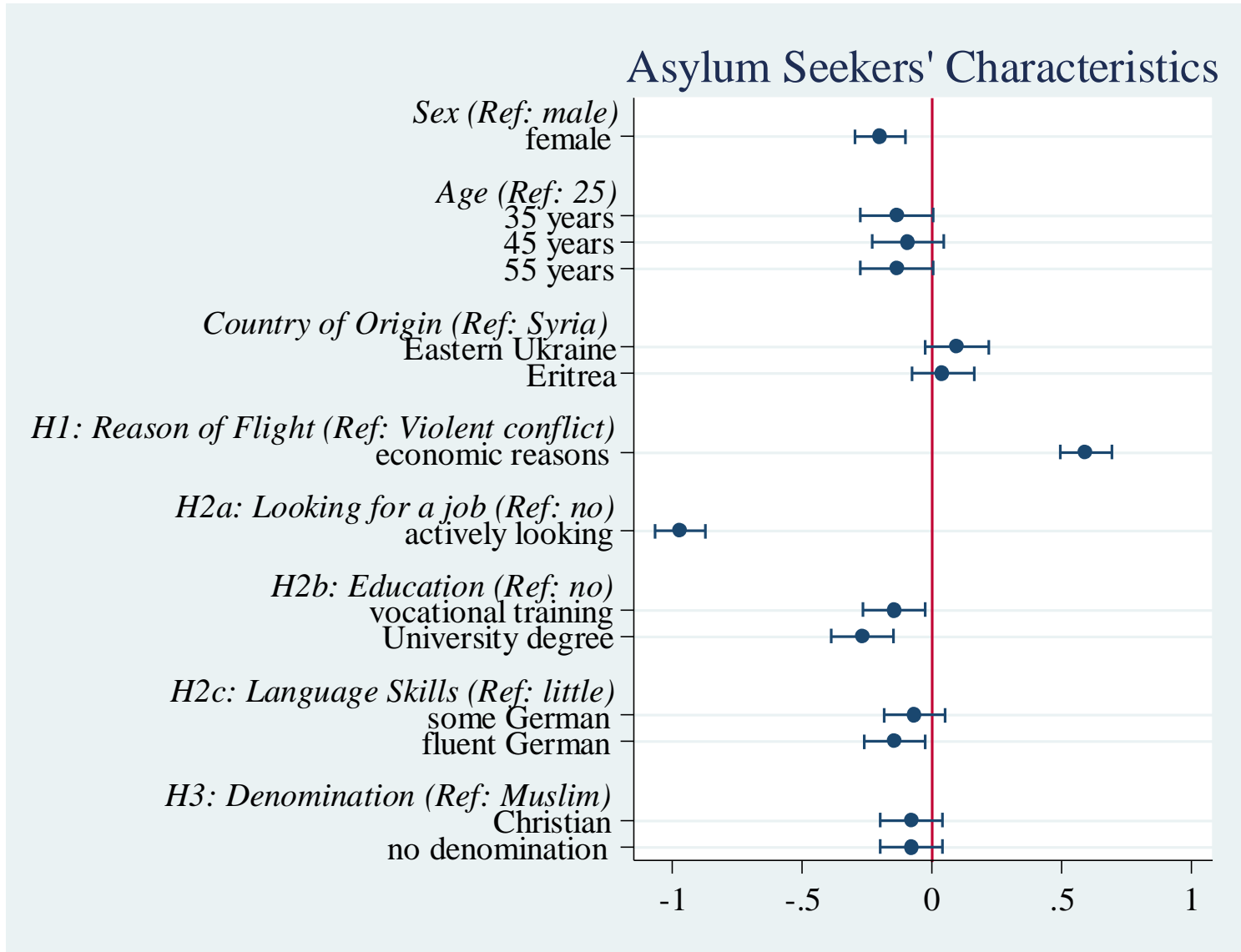
- Questionnaire: Main topics are about political/welfare state attitudes and trust
- Vignette module: Hypothetical asylum seekers are presented
 - Vignette universe: 15552 possible combinations
 - Fractionalized factorial design: 140 vignettes (20 decks)
 - D-Efficiency: 99.9
 - Random deck of hypothetical asylum seekers was assigned to the respondents in advance (random assignment, no correlation with respondents characteristics)

Data & Method

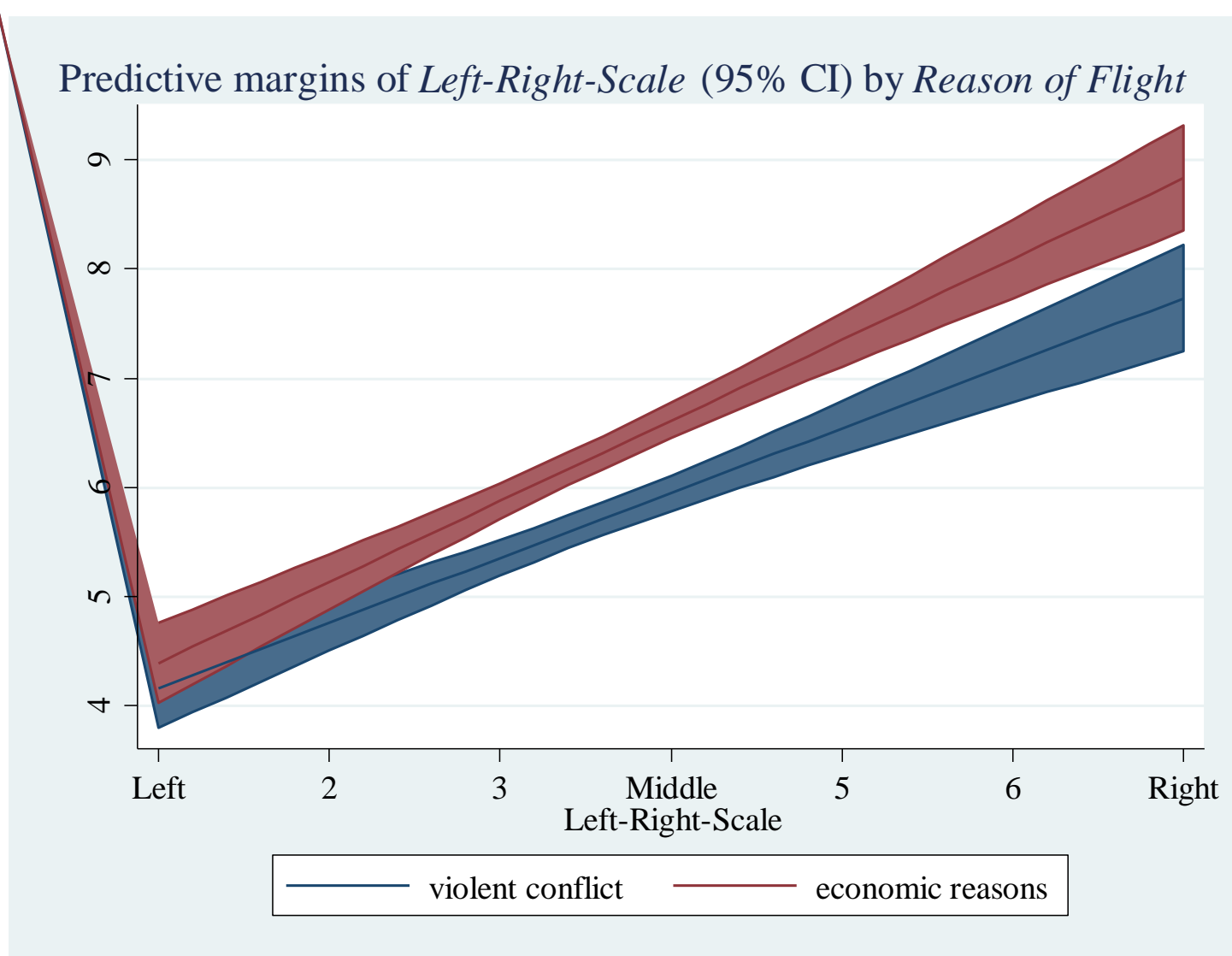
Data Structure

- Level 1: Respondents
- Level 2: Judgments of hypothetical asylum seeker
 - Hierarchical data structure: random-intercept model with fixed slopes

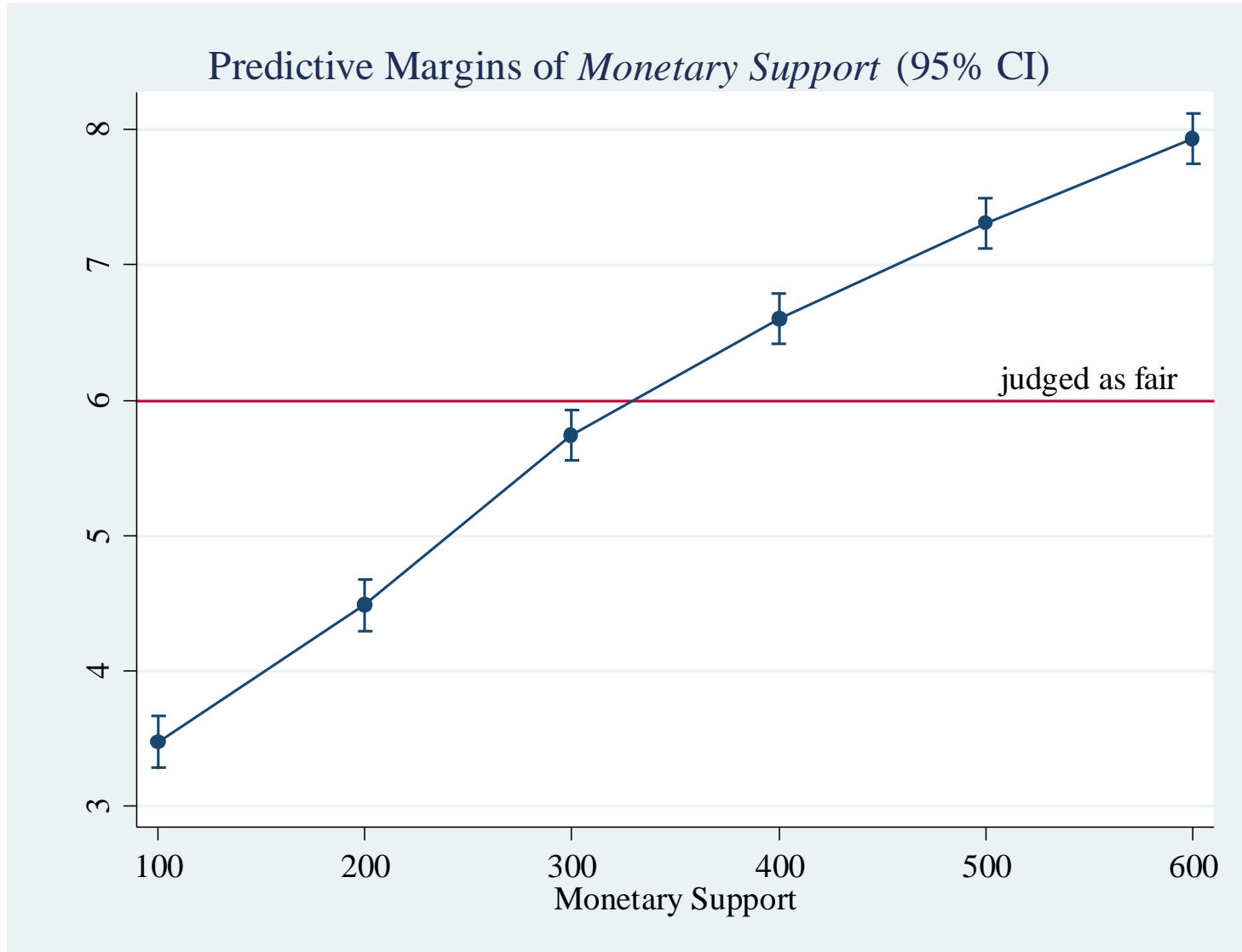
Results



Results



Results



Results

Willingness to Pay

Dimensions	WTP	95% CI significant
Female (vs. male)	22.04 €	Yes
Age 35 (vs. 25)	14.68 €	No
Age 45 (vs. 25)	10.07 €	No
Age 55 (vs. 25)	14.82 €	No
economic (vs. violent conflict)	-65.91 €	Yes
looking for job (vs. no)	107.36 €	Yes
vocational (vs. no)	15.90 €	Yes
University deg. (vs. no)	29.52 €	Yes
some German (vs. little)	7.27 €	No
fluent German (vs. little)	15.72 €	Yes
Eastern Ukraine (vs. Syria)	-10.88 €	No
Eritrea (vs. Syria)	-4.78 €	No
Christian (vs. Muslim)	8.56 €	No
No (vs. Muslim)	8.60 €	No

Conclusion

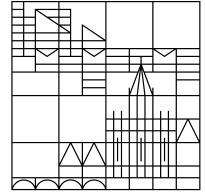
Social Assistance as an investment and not solely a humanitarian act

Respondents judge as fair:

- The reason to come to Germany in the first place is very important (H1)
- Higher returns for more employable asylum seekers (H2a-c)
- They do not discriminate according to religion or country of origin (H3)
- Rather rightist Germans are willing to adopt their evaluation according to the reason why an asylum seeker came to Germany in the first place (H4)

- What is fair?
 - Around 300€ and 400€ (for the average refugee described)

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Thank You

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