

Crisis, Intervention and the Politics of Central Bank Independence, Follow-up (#137175)

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?

It's complicated. We have already collected some data but explain in Question 8 why readers may consider this a valid pre-registration nevertheless.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?

This study will test four main hypotheses:

1. Respondents will report increased support in the Federal Reserve's international lending practices when informed about their role in upholding the US dollar's leadership against the rise of China.
2. Respondents will not report increased trust in the Federal Reserve when informed about their role in upholding the US dollar's leadership against the rise of China.
3. The marginal effect of the China treatment on support will be greater for respondents with higher levels of internationalist sentiment.
4. The marginal effect of the China treatment on support will be greater for respondents with zero-sum perceptions than for those without zero-sum perceptions.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

The main dependent variables in the study are trust in the Fed (scale 0 - 10, 0 = no trust at all and 10 = complete trust in the Fed) and support for the Fed's international lending policies (6-point scale: Strongly support, Support, Slightly support, Slightly oppose, Oppose and Strongly oppose)

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?

Two conditions with roughly 1,750 respondents per condition. Participants will randomly receive either the control treatment, which tells them what the Fed's foreign lending policy is, or the treatment condition which provides additional information on the geopolitical implications of the policies: that the Fed's foreign lending is good for preserving dollar dominance against the rise of China.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

For Hypotheses 1-2, we will use OLS regression to predict support for the lending policy and the level of trust in the Fed with a dummy variable indicating whether the respondent was given the "China" treatment or not. For Hypotheses 3-4, we will interact the dummy treatment variable with a continuous measure of internationalism as well as a dummy variable indicating a zero-sum mentality. These regressions will control for the following individual-level factors: gender, partisanship, household income, age, whether they have completed college or not, and whether they own stocks.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

We will only drop respondents who fail one of two attention checks.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.

We will target 3500 respondents, evenly split between treatment and control.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

This is a follow-up experiment to explore unexpected findings from an earlier pre-registered study (link here: <https://osf.io/hjb72>). While the data for the follow-up have not yet been collected, we have already collected, analyzed and presented data from the initial survey experiment.