

A Cross-Cultural Study of the Differential Effects of Migrant Labels (#6914)

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

No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

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

How and why do people's evaluations of "migrants," "refugees," and "asylum seekers" vary as a function of the country to which they belong? We predict that, in general, refugees and asylum seekers will receive more negative evaluations than migrants. However, this differential evaluation will vary as a function of country and be related to (a) variation in the countries' media's representation of these labels and (b) the degree to which countries use these labels interchangeably. We have no a priori predictions about which countries will show larger differential label effects. However, we expect that countries that have larger differential use of the labels in the media and in general should also have larger differential evaluation effects.

We also intend to explore how the following variables relate to the differential evaluation effects: (a) participants' reported importance of issues regarding migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, (b) participants' understanding of the difference between these labels, (c) participants' political orientation, (d) participants' political interest, and (e) participants' social class. We predict that participants and countries that regard these issues as being more important, who understand differences between the labels more clearly, who are right-wing, more interested in politics, and have a higher social class should show larger differential evaluation effects.

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

Evaluations will be assessed using a feeling thermometer (Haddock, Zanna, & Esses, 1993), social distance scale (Esses & Dovidio, 2002), and immigration attitudes scale.

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

Participants will be randomly assigned to one of three conditions. Participants in each condition will respond to a different label (i.e., "migrants," "refugees," or "asylum seekers").

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

A 10 (country: Australia, Finland, France, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom) x 3 (label: migrants, refugees, asylum seekers) between-subjects ANOVA will be conducted on each of the three evaluation measures (i.e., thermometer, social distance, and immigration attitudes). The same ANOVA will be performed on (a) intergroup contact information from the media and (b) participants' perceived equivalence of labels in their country. A similar pattern of results is expected, and (a) intergroup contact via media and (b) perceived equivalence of labels in country will be considered as mediator variables in order to explain evaluative differences between countries and labels.

The following variables will also be considered as potential moderator variables: (a) participants' reported importance of issues regarding migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, (b) participants' understanding of the difference between these labels, (c) political orientation, (d) political interest, and (e) social class.

Key analyses will be repeated with and without covariates in order to determine if the pattern of significant and nonsignificant effects changes. Covariates include age, gender, country of birth, parents' migrant status, and type of participants (students, non-student).

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

Univariate outliers will be identified for each key variable. Outliers are defined as participants who have scores that are +/- 3.00 standard deviations from the sample mean. Analyses will be performed with and without outliers, and any discrepancies in the key results will be reported.

Participants will be excluded from the data analysis if (1) they withdraw from the survey part way through and do not respond to an informed consent item near the end of the survey or (2) they complete the survey but actively decline their informed consent.

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.

Participants will be university students and members of the general public. We aim to recruit a maximum of 330 participants from each of the 10 countries. Data collection will cease when all participants have been recruited OR after 31st June 2018, whichever occurs first.

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

The full list of researchers who are involved in this project is as follows:

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