

Relationships Matter: Leaders, Shared Identity, and Nuclear Cooperation

Molly Berkemeier

Texas A&M University

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Evidence

Analysis of leader traits & NCA's from 1950-2002 ($n = 141,025$)

Leadership, identity, and cooperation

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- Outside of IR, widely understood that identities important for cooperation (e.g. Tajfel 1978, Ellison 1993, Maddox 2005)

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 - ▶ “The earliest trust rule is based on social distance – trust neighbors, but not outsiders” (Ellison 1993)

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 - ▶ “Personal impressions are often formed rapidly and spontaneously from minimal information” (Todorov et al. 2009)
 - ▶ Brain makes a judgment about how trustworthy someone is in as little as 100 milliseconds based on characteristics of others; produces emotional response (Engell et al. 2007)

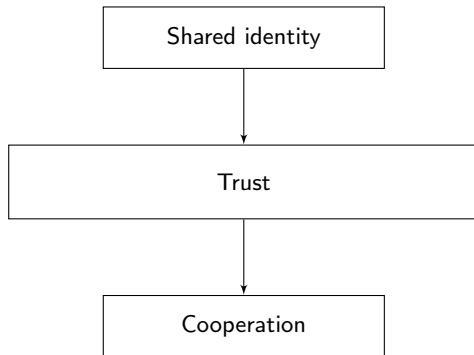
Defining trust

A psychological state comprising the intention to accept vulnerability based on the positive expectation of the intentions or behavior of another (Rousseau et al. 1998)

Two main components:

- 1 Confident positive expectations about future conduct
- 2 Willingness to be vulnerable and accept risk

Identity → cooperation



Why nuclear cooperation?

Nuclear cooperation & the dual use dilemma



Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org> and <http://theconversation.com/>

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- 1966 • Assistance on RAPP-2
- 1974 • “Peaceful” nuclear test at Pokhran; Canada suspends nuclear assistance including export license of \$1.5 million

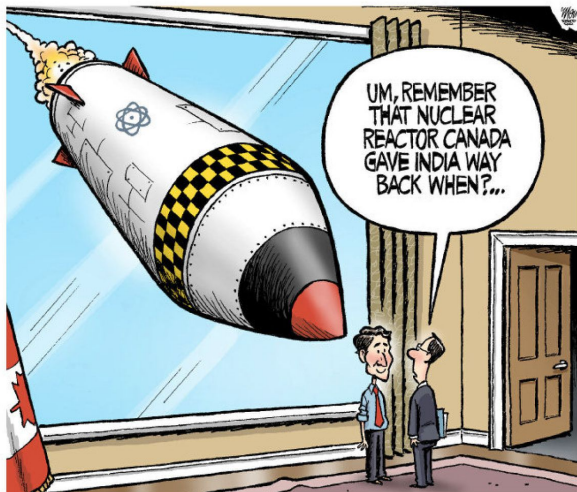


Figure: Risky cooperation: the case of Canada and India

Source: <https://www.thestar.com>, cartoon by Theo Moudakis

Identity and nuclear cooperation

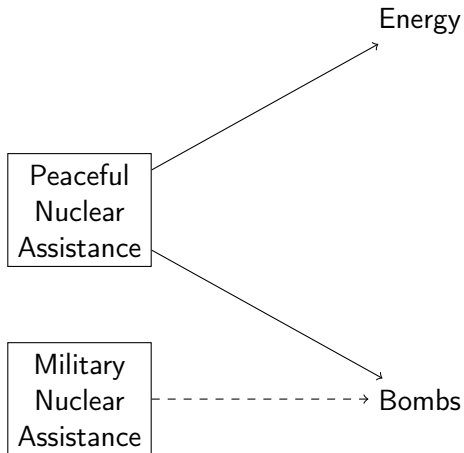


Figure: Outcomes for peaceful and military nuclear assistance

Identity and nuclear cooperation

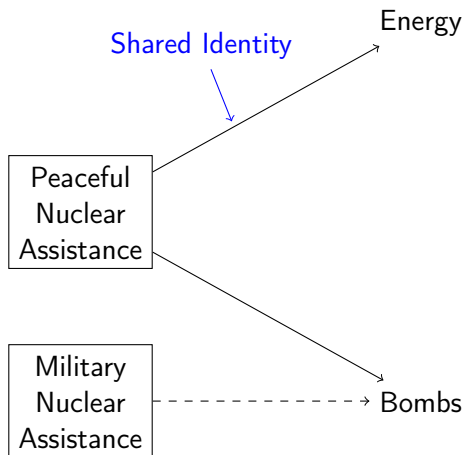


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Expectations

Hypothesis 1. *Ceteris paribus*, leaders with more similar identities are more likely to cooperate on nuclear issues

Political constraints & leader autonomy

- Leader capability to govern without constraint varies (Jervis 2013)

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⇒ Recipient leaders with little bureaucratic oversight may be more able to execute their preferences without meddling from individuals or institutions within their own government

Constraint & outcomes of nuclear cooperation

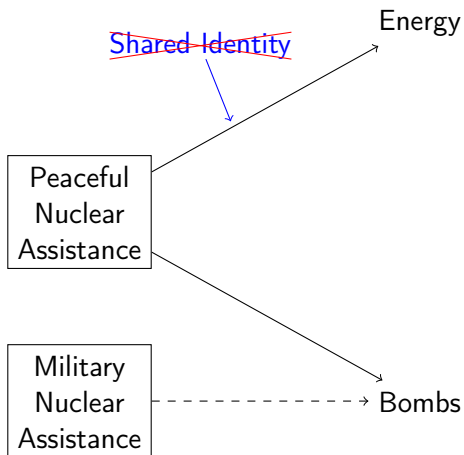


Figure: Outcomes for peaceful and military nuclear assistance under constraint

Expectations

Hypothesis 1. *Ceteris paribus*, leaders with more similar identities are more likely to cooperate on nuclear issues

Hypothesis 2. *Ceteris paribus*, leaders with more similar identities are more likely to cooperate on nuclear issues when there are *fewer* institutional constraints on leader decision-making

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- *Model*: Logit

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- Over 1,500 NCAs from 1950-2002

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 - 4 Shared adult identities (married, children)
 - 5 Shared military background (state or rebel)

Bureaucratic constraints

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- Modified for alignment across branches and within-branch heterogeneity
- Theoretically ranges from 0 (least constrained) to 1 (most constrained); Highest level of constraint in sample is 0.72

Strategic considerations

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- **Dyadic Conflict:** Engaged in conflict

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- Also control for distance, trade, affinity, and individual regime type

The effect of shared leader identities on NCAs, 1950-2002

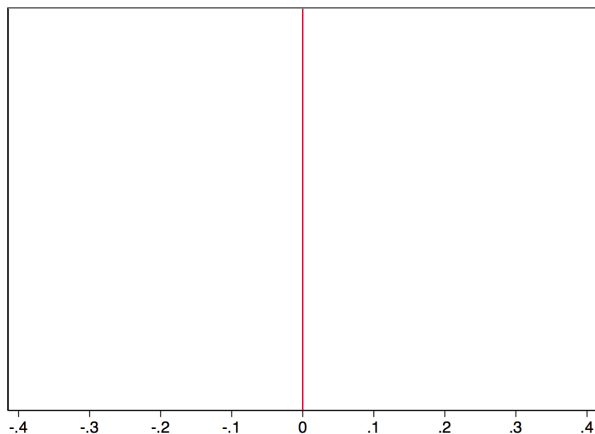


Figure: Logit coefficient of identity score

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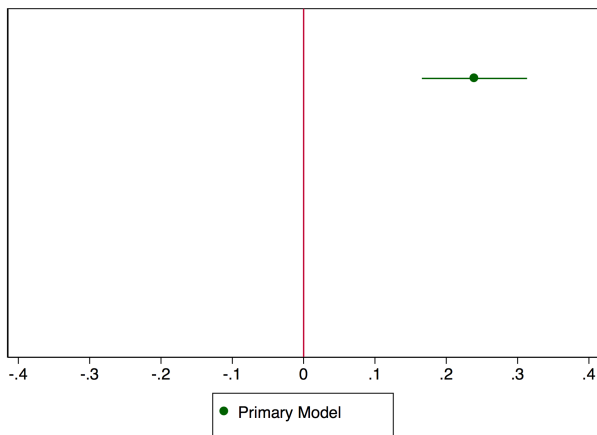


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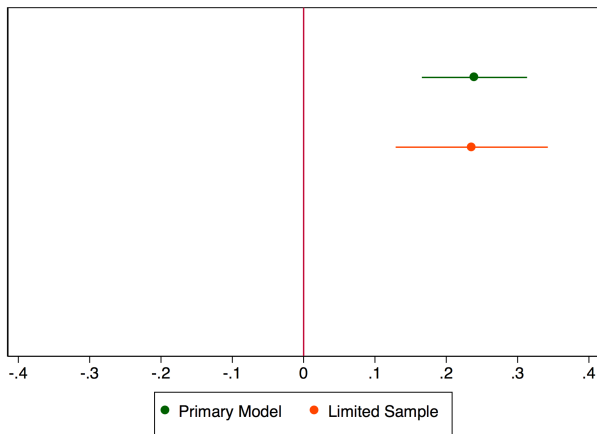


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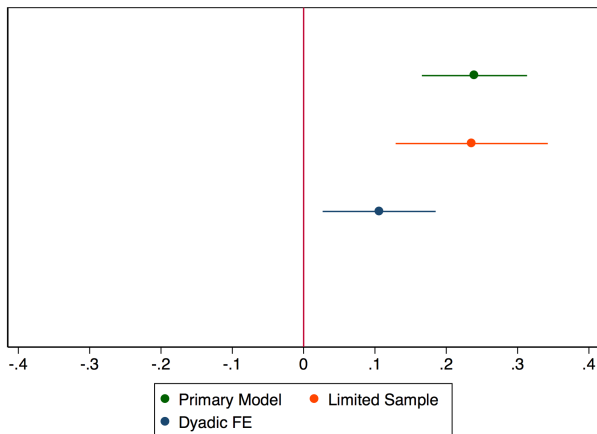


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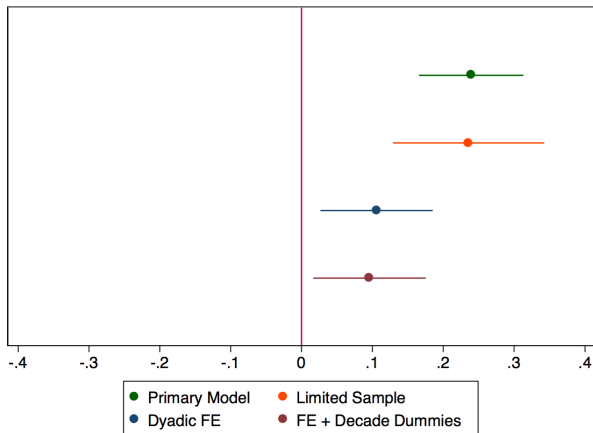


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Substantive effect of identity score on probability of NCA

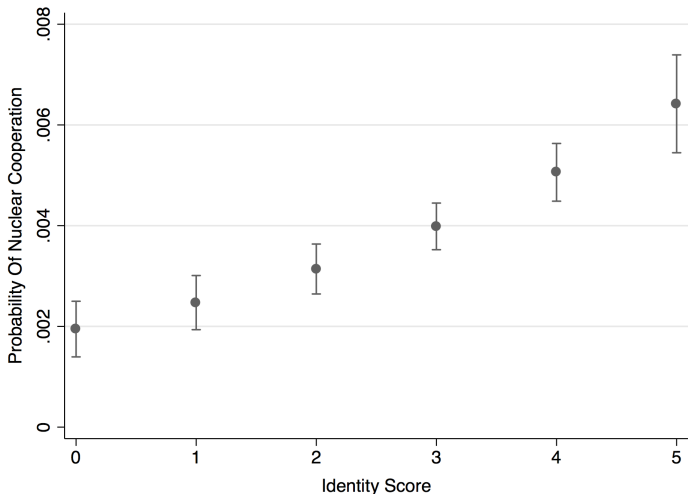


Figure: Predicted probability of nuclear cooperation, Model 1 ($N = 141,025$)

Interaction of political constraint and identity score

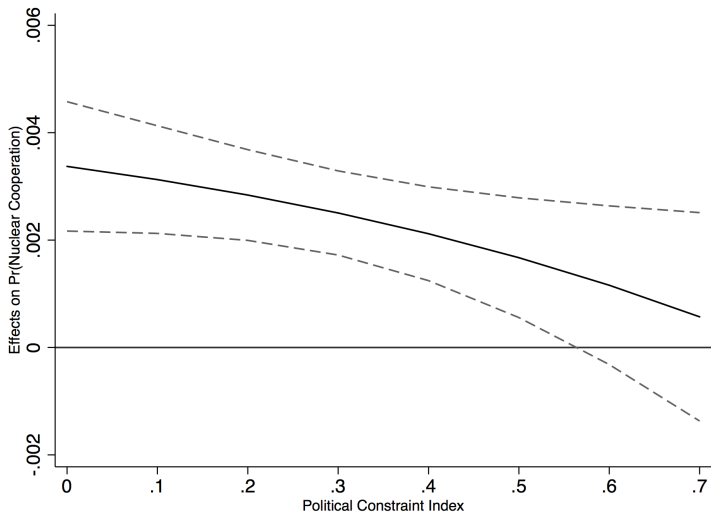


Figure: Average marginal effect of identity score (Model 2), 95% CIs

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▶ WHEELING, WV
8:23 PM ET



TRUMP: KIM AND I FELL IN LOVE

FOX NEWS ALERT

"TENS TO HUNDREDS" OF PEOPLE WERE ATTENDING BEACH FESTIVAL WHEN MAGNITUDE 7.5 EARTHQUAKE

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 - ▶ May not be as important at high levels of domestic political constraint
- Identity matters in international politics!
 - ▶ Important in era when individual leader personalities appear to be increasingly prominent
- In particular, understanding leader relationships and the interaction of leader backgrounds and experiences contributes to understanding cooperation in world politics

Thank you!

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