



THE ATHENS INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Abstract Book

**21st Annual International Conference on
Politics & International Studies
12-15 June 2023 Athens, Greece**

**Edited by
Kenneth Christie & Olga Gkounta**

2023

Abstracts
21st Annual International
Conference on Politics &
International Studies
12-15 June 2023, Athens, Greece

Edited by
Kenneth Christie & Olga Gkounta

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Preface

This book includes the abstracts of all the papers presented at the 21st Annual International Conference on Politics & International Studies (12-15 June 2023), organized by the Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).

A full conference program can be found before the relevant abstracts. In accordance with ATINER's Publication Policy, the papers presented during this conference will be considered for inclusion in one of ATINER's many publications only after a blind peer review process.

The purpose of this abstract book is to provide members of ATINER and other academics around the world with a resource through which they can discover colleagues and additional research relevant to their own work. This purpose is in congruence with the overall mission of the association. ATINER was established in 1995 as an independent academic organization with the mission to become a forum where academics and researchers from all over the world can meet to exchange ideas on their research and consider the future developments of their fields of study.

To facilitate the communication, a new references section includes all the abstract books published as part of this conference (Table 1). I invite the readers to access these abstract books –these are available for free– and compare how the themes of the conference have evolved over the years. According to ATINER's mission, the presenters in these conferences are coming from many different countries, presenting various topics.

Table 1. *Publication of Books of Abstracts of Proceedings, 2010-2023*

| Year | Papers | Countries | References |
|------|--------|-----------|---|
| 2023 | 42 | 21 | Christie and Gkounta (2023) |
| 2022 | 28 | 14 | Stivachtis and Gkounta (2022) |
| 2021 | 16 | 11 | Papanikos (2021) |
| 2020 | 14 | 12 | Papanikos (2020) |
| 2019 | 27 | 16 | Papanikos (2019) |
| 2018 | 27 | 15 | Papanikos (2018) |
| 2017 | 40 | 24 | Papanikos (2017) |
| 2016 | 51 | 21 | Papanikos (2016) |
| 2015 | 30 | 22 | Papanikos (2015) |
| 2014 | 26 | 17 | Papanikos (2014) |
| 2013 | 50 | 23 | Papanikos (2013) |
| 2012 | 31 | 16 | Papanikos (2012) |
| 2011 | 34 | 12 | Papanikos (2011) |
| 2010 | 33 | 11 | Papanikos (2010) |

It is our hope that through ATINER's conferences and publications, Athens will become a place where academics and researchers from all over the world can regularly meet to discuss the developments of their disciplines and present their work. Since 1995, ATINER has organized more than 400 international conferences and has published over 200 books. Academically, the institute is organized into 6 divisions and 37 units. Each unit organizes at least one annual conference and undertakes various small and large research projects.

For each of these events, the involvement of multiple parties is crucial. I would like to thank all the participants, the members of the organizing and academic committees, and most importantly the administration staff of ATINER for putting this conference and its subsequent publications together.

Gregory T. Papanikos
President

Editors' Note

These abstracts provide a vital means to the dissemination of scholarly inquiry in the field of Politics & International Studies. The breadth and depth of research approaches and topics represented in this book underscores the diversity of the conference.

ATINER's mission is to bring together academics from all corners of the world in order to engage with each other, brainstorm, exchange ideas, be inspired by one another, and once they are back in their institutions and countries to implement what they have acquired. The 21st Annual International Conference on Politics & International Studies accomplished this goal by bringing together academics and scholars from 21 different countries (Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Mongolia, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Malawi, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Türkiye, UK, USA), which brought in the conference the perspectives of many different country approaches and realities in the field.

Publishing this book can help that spirit of engaged scholarship continue into the future. With our joint efforts, the next editions of this conference will be even better. We hope that this abstract book as a whole will be both of interest and of value to the reading audience.

Kenneth Christie & Olga Gkounta
Editors

21st Annual International Conference on Politics & International Studies, 12-15 June 2023, Athens, Greece

Organizing & Scientific Committee

All ATINER's conferences are organized by the Academic Council. This conference has been organized with the assistance of the following academic members of ATINER, who contributed by reviewing the submitted abstracts and papers.

1. Gregory T. Papanikos, President, ATINER & Honorary Professor, University of Stirling, U.K.
2. Philip G. Cerny, Director, Social Sciences Division, ATINER & Professor Emeritus, University of Manchester (UK) and Rutgers University (USA).
3. Kenneth Christie, Head, Politics & International Affairs Unit, ATINER & Professor, Royal Roads University, Canada.
4. Orna Almog, Deputy Head, Politics & International Affairs Unit, ATINER & Senior Lecturer (Retired), Kingston University, UK.
5. Yannis Stivachtis, Director, Center for European & Mediterranean Affairs (CEMA) and Professor, Jean Monnet Chair, Director of International Studies Program & Director, Diplomacy Lab Program, Virginia Tech - Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, USA.
6. Athanasios Mihalakas, Director, Center for Federalism and Regional Integration & Global Professor of Law, University of Arizona USA
7. Raquel de Caria Patrício, Academic Member, ATINER & Associate Professor, University of Lisbon, Portugal.

FINAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

**21st Annual International Conference on Politics & International Studies,
12-15 June 2023, Athens, Greece**

PROGRAM

Monday 12 June 2023

09:15-10:00

Opening and Welcoming Remarks:

- **Gregory T. Papanikos**, President, ATINER.

10:00-11:30 Session 1

Session 1a

Moderator: Philip Cerny, Professor Emeritus, University of Manchester, UK and Rutgers University, USA.

1. **Devin Beauregard**, Professor, University of Ottawa, Canada.
Title: Creating Unity in Disaccord: The Cultural Policies of National Minorities.
2. **Justin Massie**, Professor, University of Quebec in Montreal, Canada.
Title: United we Stand? Explaining Varying Support to Ukraine.
3. **Sunyoung Park**, Professor, Sejong University, South Korea.
Title: Seek from Different Dream to Common Ground.
4. **Sarika Bose**, Lecturer, University of British Columbia, Canada.
Title: Citizenship and Statelessness in the Academy: The Case of the Academic Adjunct.

Discussion

Session 1b

Moderator: Julie Papastamatelou, Professor, University of Applied Management Studies, Germany.

1. **Ethan Sharygin**, Assistant Professor, Portland State University, USA.
Title: Assessing Migration after Natural Disaster: A Housing Capacity Search Model.
2. **Mohamed Elkhoul**, Associate Professor, Sadat Academy for Management Science, Egypt.
Title: Examining the Most Important Factors Affecting the Egyptian Family's Choice of the Ideal Number of Children in the Light of the 2015 Demographic and Health Survey.
3. **Soumendu Sen**, Researcher, International Institute for Population Sciences, India.
Tabassum Wadasadawala, Professor & Consultant Radiation Oncologist, Tata Memorial Center, India.
Sanjay K. Mohanty, Professor & Head, Department of Population and Development, International Institute for Population Sciences, India.
Title: Income, Loan & Debt Accumulation and Financial Stress among Breast Cancer Patients Seeking Treatment at India's Largest Tertiary Cancer Care Center.
4. **Karabo Mhele**, Senior Lecturer, North-West University, South Africa.
Title: Assessment of Age and Date Reporting Among Black Population in South Africa.

Discussion

| 11:30-13:30 Session 2 | |
|---|---|
| <p>Session 2a Moderator: Utku Özer, Research Fellow, ATINER.</p> | <p>Session 2b Moderator: Ethan Sharygin, Assistant Professor, Portland State University, USA.</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Philip Cerny, Professor Emeritus, University of Manchester, UK and Rutgers University, USA. <i>Title: The Reactive State in a Heterarchical World.</i> 2. Emre Ozigci, Deputy Head, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, Türkiye. <i>Title: The Problem of Returning to the “Things Themselves” in the IR Theorisation: Phenomenology’s Possible Use in the Study of the Pre-Theoretical, Immediate Givenness of the IR Phenomena and Events.</i> 3. Stephan Unger, Associate Professor, Saint Anselm College, USA. <i>Title: The Diffusion Speed of Good vs. Bad News in Geo-Politics.</i> 4. Amitendu Palit, Senior Research Fellow, National University of Singapore, Singapore. <i>Title: Geopolitics of Supply Chains: Examining the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF).</i> 5. Tamás Tarján, Assistant Lecturer, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Hungary. <i>Title: Fears, Desires and the Art of Tightrope Walking: Nation-building Strategies of the Hungarian Political Elite under the Austro-Hungarian Empire.</i> 6. Matthew Ellis, PhD Candidate, Purdue University, USA. <i>Title: Conceptualizing Gray Zone Activities as a New Typology.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Julie Papastamatelou, Professor, University of Applied Management Studies, Germany. Volker Ludwig, Assistant Professor, University of Kaiserslautern, Germany. <i>Title: Physical and Verbal Partnership Violence: A Longitudinal Analysis of Interactional Driving Factors among German Couples.</i> 2. Volker Ludwig, Assistant Professor, University of Kaiserslautern, Germany. <i>Title: What you Need to Know when Estimating Impact Functions for Demographic Research.</i> 3. Nolizwe Madinga-Molefe, Lecturer, University of Zululand, South Africa. <i>Title: An Exploration into the Role Played by Women in Establishing Food Security amongst the Youth: The Case of Soweto, Johannesburg.</i> 4. Babul Hossain, PhD Student, International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), India. <i>Title: Why are Widows Dying more than Married Women in India? A Constructed Social & Economic Disadvantage among Women in Post-Widowhood.</i> 5. Soňa Kehmová, PhD Student, National Chengchi University, Taiwan. <i>Title: Putin’s Use of Gendered Rhetoric: The Narrative of Masculinist Nationalism as a Path to Political Legitimacy.</i> |
| <p>Discussion</p> | <p>Discussion</p> |
| 13:30-15:00 Session 3 – A Round-Table Discussion on Demographics and Politics | |
| <p>Moderator: Gregory T. Papanikos, President, ATINER.</p> | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sunyoung Park, Professor, Sejong University, South Korea. <i>Title: Demographics and Politics in Korea.</i> 2. Mohamed Elkhoul, Associate Professor, Sadat Academy for Management Science, Egypt. <i>Title: Challenges to the Success of Demographic Strategies in the Arab Region.</i> 3. Amitendu Palit, Senior Research Fellow, National University of Singapore, Singapore. <i>Title: Political Choices and Demography: Evidence from India and the Asian Region.</i> 4. Volker Ludwig, Assistant Professor, University of Kaiserslautern, Germany. <i>Title: Spatial Research on the Uprise of Right-Wing Populism in Europe.</i> 5. Emre Ozigci, Deputy Head, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Türkiye, Türkiye. <i>Title: The Demographic Change as a Factor in Rapid Foreign Policy Transformation: On the</i> | |

Chinese Passage from the "Symbiosis" to the "Confrontation" with the West.

6. **Mark Fagiano**, Deputy Head, Philosophy Unit, ATINER and Assistant Professor, Georgia State University, USA.
Title: The Role of Wise Provincialism in Social Meliorism.

Discussion

15:00-16:00 Discussion + Lunch

16:00-17:30 Session 4

Moderator: Mr Kostas Spyropoulos (ATINER Administrator).

1. **Jorge Cerdeira**, Assistant Professor, University of Porto, Portugal.
Title: Too Much of a Good Thing? The Concave Impact of Corruption on Firm Performance.
2. **Carla Sequeira**, Research Fellow, University of Porto/CITCEM, Portugal.
Title: Contributions to the Political and Party Characterization of the Douro Region during the First Republic in Portugal.
3. **Eva Loreng**, Assistant Professor, Central University of Gujarat, India.
Title: Exercising Soft Power: A Comparison of Narratives about the 1971 War in Cinema, Television Shows and Web Series.
4. **Deboshree Das**, PhD Student, International Institute for Population Sciences, India.
Title: Trajectories in Subjective Well Being among Youth in India.

Discussion

17:30-19:00 Session 5

Moderator: Mr Kostas Spyropoulos (ATINER Administrator).

1. **Evanthia Balla**, Professor, University of Évora, Portugal.
Title: Security and Human Rights: Charting EU's Political Model. The Technocratic Challenge in EU's External Action.
2. **Svetlana Buzhenitsa**, MD, Resident of Specialization School in Health Statistics, University of Pavia, Italy.
Ioana Popa, Researcher, University of Pavia, Italy.
Pietro Perotti, MD, Director of Unit of Epidemiology, Public Health Agency of Pavia, Italy.
Lorenza Boschetti, MD, Responsible of Death Registry, Public Health Agency of Pavia, Italy.
Stefano Marguati, NM, Nursery, Public Health Agency of Pavia, Italy.
Simona Villani, Professor, University of Pavia, Italy.
Simona Dalle Carbonare, Eng PhD, Public Health Agency of Pavia, Italy.
Title: Trends of Potential Years of Life Lost in Pavia Province (Italy) in the period 2015-2021. The Impact of COVID-19.
3. **Bolormaa Tsogtsaikhan**, Professor, National University of Mongolia, Mongolia.
Title: Mongolia's Demographic Transition.
4. **Estelle McLean**, Researcher/Data Scientist, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK and Malawi Epidemiology and Intervention Research Unit, Republic of Malawi.
Albert Dube, Researcher, Malawi Epidemiology and Intervention Research Unit, UK.
Maria Sironi, Associate Professor, University College London, UK.
Amelia Crampin, Professor/Director, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK and Malawi Epidemiology and Intervention Research Unit, Republic of Malawi.
Rebecca Sear, Professor, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK.
Title: Disrupted Transition to Adulthood: Causes and Effects of Divorce at a Young Age in Rural Malawi.

Discussion

20:30-22:30

Athenian Early Evening Symposium (includes in order of appearance: continuous academic discussions, dinner, wine/water, music and dance)

Tuesday 13 June 2023

08:00-11:30 Session 6

Old and New-An Educational Urban Walk

The urban walk ticket is not included as part of your registration fee. It includes transportation costs and the cost to enter the Parthenon and the other monuments on the Acropolis Hill. The urban walk tour includes the broader area of Athens. Among other sites, it includes: Zappion, Syntagma Square, Temple of Olympian Zeus, Ancient Roman Agora and on Acropolis Hill: the Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion, and the Parthenon. The program of the tour may be adjusted, if there is a need beyond our control. This is a private event organized by ATINER exclusively for the conference participants.

11:30-13:00 Session 7

Moderator: Utku Özer, Research Fellow, ATINER.

1. **Kenneth Christie**, Professor, Royal Roads University, Canada.
Robert Hanlon, Associate Professor Thompson Rivers University, Canada.
Title: Towards a New Human Security Strategy for Canada: The Case of China.
2. **Philip Alldritt**, Lecturer, University of New Mexico, USA.
Title: Saving Democracy from Creeping Authoritarianism.
3. **Gregory T. Papanikos**, President of ATINER.
Title: Explaining Electoral Successes in Greek Parliamentary Elections: Is it the Economy Again?
4. **Arya Rachel Thomas**, PhD Student, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, India.
Umakant Dash, Director, Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), India.
Santosh Kumar Sahu, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, India.
Title: Illnesses and Hardship Financing in India: An Evaluation of Inpatient and Outpatient Cases, 2014-18.

Discussion

13:00-15:00 Session 8

Moderator: Kenneth Christie, Professor, Royal Roads University, Canada.

1. **Prashant Vijay**, Researcher, Hyderabad Central University, India.
Title: Evolution of Malaria Research in India: A Bibliometric Analysis of Literature by Using Scopus Database.
2. **Akvilė Stankutė**, PhD Student, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania.
Title: Film Production Workers Community in Lithuania: Traits of Collective Identity.
3. **Elżbieta Wiejaczka**, PhD Student, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland.
Title: Maasai-Wazungu Couples Living in Tanzania. Anthropological Study of Long-Term Relationships.*
4. **Denise Musni**, PhD Student, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium.
Title: Mind the Gap: Analyzing the Discontinuity between Antenatal Care and Facility-Based Delivery among Filipino Mothers.

Discussion

15:00-16:00 Discussion + Lunch

16:00-17:30 Session 9

Moderator: Mr Kostas Spyropoulos (ATINER Administrator).

1. **Katsumi Ishizuka**, Dean and Professor, Faculty of International Business Management, Kyoei University, Japan.
Title: Japan's Contribution to International Peace.
2. **Shi Li**, Professor, Renming University of China, China.
Title: On the Triple Connection between Morality and Politics.
3. **Adrian Szumowski**, Assistant Professor, Maria Curie-Skolodowska University, Poland.
Title: Correlates of War: Energy Prices and Causes of War. Cases Study Ukraine 2022.
4. **Luiz Fernando Dias Duarte**, Professor, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
Daniel Nunes de Oliveira Malafaia, MA Student, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
Izabela Henriques Feffer, MA Student, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
Title: Vitalism and Processualism as Key Dimensions of Contemporary Anthropology.

Discussion

17:30-19:00 Session 10

Moderator: Mr Kostas Spyropoulos (ATINER Administrator).

1. **Amber Brittain-Hale**, PhD Student, Pepperdine University, USA.
Title: She Speaks for Millions: The Emergence of Female Diplomatic Voices in the Russo-Ukrainian War.
2. **Kalliopi Tzani-Pepelasi**, Senior Lecturer, University of Huddersfield, UK.
Title: The Relationship between Global Crises and Aggression.
3. **Sunil Sahu**, Professor, DePauw University, USA.
Punita Sahu, Department of Library and Information Science, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, USA.
Title: Social Media and Surveillance Capitalism: Facebook, Political Polarization, Orwellian Dystopia, and American Democracy.

Discussion

19:00-20:30

Ancient Athenian Dinner (includes in order of appearance: continuous academic discussions, dinner with recipes from ancient Athens, wine/water)

Wednesday 14 June 2023
An Educational Visit to Selected Islands
or
Mycenae Visit

Thursday 15 June 2023
Visiting the Oracle of Delphi

Friday 16 June 2023
Visiting the Ancient Corinth and Cape Sounio

Philip Alldritt

Lecturer, University of New Mexico, USA

Saving Democracy from Creeping Authoritarianism

Creeping authoritarianism is threatening the progress of democratic institutions and political systems around the world. The signs and threats are well thought out and analyzed by many authors. This paper will outline the critical elements and institutions (both physical and psychological) that must be in place to preserve democracy. Further, why the spread of democratic values have been rejected by some cultures and why other political systems have evolved and adapted democratic values in order to survive. Finally, how does an economic system (like the United States) evolve its social conditions to adapt to a changing world reality?

Evanthia Balla

Professor, University of Évora, Portugal

Security and Human Rights: Charting EU's Political Model - The Technocratic Challenge in EU's External Action

In a constantly changing geopolitical and geostrategic environment, the European Union faces the birth of new security challenges and perils, as well as the rebirth of old ones. The 2016 'Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy' envisioned a key role for the EU, as a player for security, democracy and a rules-based world order. At the same time, the 'Strategic Compass', adopted in March 2022, offered an ambitious plan of action for strengthening further EU's role as a security and defence actor.

In the current instability scenario, and especially given the market dominant paradigm of the European construction, it seems relevant to revisit the very foundations of security and human rights as promoters of the European project and its place in the world scene. Ian Manners has argued that the EU is one of the most important, if not the most important, normative powers in the world. However, the EU has a 'sui generis' model of governance, encompassed by a state centric as well as a multilevel governance mode.

Under this prism, the present study aims to observe the EU's strategy and action in the security field, and the governance model of the EU, in order to test the viability of its vision as a global actor of values. The work uses three variables: objectives, actors, and decision-making process. An assessment of the EU as a security actor through these variables provides an empirical foundation for measuring the viability of the system of security governance it has engendered. EU's 'security and human rights actorhood' shall be deconstructed based on Richard Bellamy's 'republican association of sovereign states' and Jürgen Habermas' "problem of transnationalizing democracy". The main argument of the author is that in the current unstable security environment, the techno-economic governance mode of the EU dictates a muddling through role rather than a cosmopolitan leadership stance.

Devin Beauregard
Professor, University of Ottawa, Canada

Creating Unity in Disaccord: The Cultural Policies of National Minorities

This presentation provides an exploration of the cultural policies of sub-states with strong nationalist inclinations – in particular, Québec, Scotland, and Catalonia. More specifically, this presentation looks at how the cultural policies of these sub-states have, in recent years, trended towards promoting and supporting the cultural industries – industries that operate in the private sector and whose primary purpose are to profit – as a means of not just preserving their respective cultural identities, but of growing them and creating a sense of unity. This represents a paradigm shift from the traditional discourse around cultural policy, which often posits that concepts of identity fall under the purview of heritage institutions and organizations, not that of industries. Through a comparative analysis of recent cultural policies in Québec, Scotland, and Catalonia, this presentation explores this new trend in cultural policy and offers a lens through which to understand it. While the cultural industries are ubiquitous in nature and arguably have an influence on the policies of every country in the world, the cases presented in this project demonstrate an application of the cultural industries that offers a new significance to cultural policy: an acute awareness and appreciations of their cultural pasts juxtaposed by approaches to culture that seek to ensure their cultures and identities continue (and evolve) in unity beyond the present.

Sarika Bose

Lecturer, University of British Columbia, Canada

Citizenship and Statelessness in the Academy: The Case of the Academic Adjunct

The increase in temporary academic contracts over stable, tenured positions for the vast majority of North American academics has resulted in a deeply divisive destabilization that is disintegrating the foundations of academia. Collegiality, unity, equality and equity, often emphasized in institutional mission statements, have been replaced by desperate attempts to maintain privilege and power that seem to be recognizable primarily by what others do not have. Universities and colleges function like nation-states, with their own cultures, citizens, and citizenship rights, as well as their own socio-economic and spatial boundaries. The self-destructive gatekeeping that assigns citizenship to some scholars and not to others, despite similar qualifications, will result in the survival of the gates only, rather than the institutions themselves. The opportunity for knowledge-making and the resources of trained knowledge makers are squandered in a desperate anxiety to maintain barriers in the name of standards that are inconsistent and often tied to administrative priorities, rather than intellectual and pedagogical ones. My paper will examine the transformation of academic citizen to denizen, in the words of economist Guy Standing. The erosion of fairly-paid, tenured positions has led to an enormous rise in academic workers who, in their precarious place in the Academy, have become equivalent to itinerant labourers on temporary visas, moving from campus to campus, belonging nowhere. Within the corporatized post-secondary model, contract academics are converted either into outsourced factory workers who are packagers, rather than the producers of the goods they provide, inexpert shop assistants selling marketable goods produced by others, or “temps” in a typing pool, transcribing the work of the real producers of knowledge. The work of scholars with degrees, publications, teaching and service hours, often equivalent to their tenured colleagues’, is unacknowledged and unpaid; their expertise is denied. This has led not only to significant negative impacts on scholarly labourers, but on the next generations, who are affected by mental health and economic challenges. The constant struggle for economic and academic survival for the adjunct academic, and the loss of their expertise in their disciplines, their frequent fear of teaching innovative or politically challenging ideas, and a lack of academic freedom on a practical level means their voices are

silenced, and that the generations of students and citizens that follow will also have less training in how to use their voices for knowledge and change. How can we reverse a course that is so clearly harmful to workers, students and ultimately, to the Academy itself? This paper hopes to suggest some steps towards practical solutions and to continue discussions that are already occurring in the adjunct/contract academic labour movement.

Amber Brittain-Hale

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**The Power of Perception: Understanding the Influence of
Women in Leadership on Public Diplomacy during the
Russo-Ukrainian War**

The study highlights messaging techniques and priority disparities among female leaders from various European nations, offering insight into the efficiency of public diplomacy strategies in advancing Ukraine's interests in the international arena. The study's findings have significant implications for understanding the role of gender in foreign policy and diplomacy, as well as the possible benefits and drawbacks of gender-specific methods. The research also contributes to the fast-expanding discipline of public diplomacy and its implications for digital leadership.

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Trends of Potential Years of Life Lost in Pavia Province (Italy) in the Period 2015-2021: The Impact of COVID-19

Background: On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a pandemic of a new coronavirus disease –COVID-19, which caused more than 6.8 million deaths worldwide (update March 2023). In record time, an anti-COVID-19 vaccine was created and large-scale mandatory vaccination was carried out, together with generally accepted protective measures (lockdown, masks, disinfection). In Italy the first anti-COVID-19 vaccination started at the end of 2020. The present work aims to evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 on premature mortality in Pavia Province (Italy) in 2 different time points, during the pandemic without vaccination and with mandatory vaccination, in relation to the pre-pandemic period.

Methods: The study is carried out on the 500,000 residents in the Pavia Province. Death data by age and sex were obtained from the Causes of Death Registry of the Public Health Agency of Pavia (ATS of Pavia). Demographic data on the Pavia Province population and on Italian population were extracted from the website of the National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) and DemoIstat. Our study included the calendar period 2015-2021: 2015-2019 yrs corresponding to pre-pandemic, 2020 to pandemic without vaccination and 2021 to pandemic with mandatory vaccination. The concept of Potential Years of Life Lost

(PYLL), estimating the average time a person would have lived if he/she had not died prematurely, was used (Romeder and McWhinnie, 1977). Different PYLL indicators were applied: PYLL, PYLL/population, PYLL/deaths. The study population was divided into 10 age groups. The range of each age group was 10 yrs. PYLLs were calculated for each age group and for the 3 upper age limits (UAL): 70, 80, 90 yrs.

Results: 1) The PYLL trend showed a similar pattern from the period before pandemic to 2021 using the 70 and 80 UAL. In average the PYLL for the 5 yrs before pandemic was 12430 yrs and 28974 yrs, respectively for 70 and 80 UAL, and after a slight increase fall down to the same level ante pandemic. 2) The PYLL/population per 100,000 showed for all 3 UAL a stable trend until 2019, an increase in 2020 with a maximum, while in 2021 decreased. 3) The average PYLLs per death in 2020 was 11,58 yrs, 11,67 yrs, 12,62 yrs, respectively for 70, 80, 90 UAL.

In general, PYLL was higher in men than in women. Using age limits of 80, 90 PYLL standardized by age per 100,000 population was higher for people over 60 with respect to those under 60. While for age limit 70 this evidence was opposed.

Conclusions: In general, the PYLL indicators used show the highest level of years of life lost in 2020, the period associated with the COVID - 19 pandemic without vaccination and only other protective/preventive measures. The evidence from PYLL/death is opposed and may be due to great frailty of the population over 80 and 90 years' old who died a lot. The PYLLs decrease in 2021 to the pre-COVID-19 level may be associated with the introduction of mandatory vaccination.

Jorge Cerdeira

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Too Much of a Good Thing? The Concave Impact of Corruption on Firm Performance

We investigate whether the impact of corruption on firm-level performance shows a concave pattern. We measure corruption with a continuous variable of firm-level bribe payments from the World Bank Enterprise Surveys. Our dataset includes 23 327 firms from 140 developing and emerging countries from 2006 to 2020. Using four measures of firm performance and instrumental variables estimation, we find that corruption has a negative linear impact on measures directly linked to market performance, but a concave impact on measures focusing on inner processes. Further, larger firms and foreign firms are less negatively impacted by corruption. Importantly, controlling for a concave relation amplifies the differences across different types of firms.

Philip Cerny

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The Reactive State in a Heterarchical World

The modern state system originated in the structural deterioration and dysfunctionality of the medieval world in Europe (a development often traced back to the Peace of Westphalia in 1648) and the trend toward European imperial expansion, undermining tribalism in the rest of the world. Statism became the general rule in the 19th and 20th centuries with the consolidation of nation-states in Europe and parts of Asia and Latin America and the establishment of post-colonial states in Africa and elsewhere. The structural core of the nation-state system has involved centralised public bureaucratic hierarchies (as exemplified in Weberian theorising), clearly demarcated and controlled external borders, economic modernisation (both capitalist and socialist, shaped in particular by the Second Industrial Revolution), and inclusive/exclusive social identities – nationalist ideologies across the left-right spectrum. The state was expected to promote modernisation domestically and be copied across the world. This is what I call the “proactive state”, and it is at the core of theories and paradigms of IR or “inter-national relations”.

Today the dialectic of globalisation and fragmentation is unevenly undermining proactive “state capacity” and leading to an increasingly heterarchical world. However, the depth and breadth of this transformation has not eliminated the role of the state. Rather it is increasingly leading to a multi-level, multi-nodal, complex and uneven restructuration process. Bureaucracies are being decentralised and quasi-privatised, leading to private interest regulatory capture, regulatory arbitrage and the predominance of profitability over the public interest, both domestically and transnationally. Borders are becoming more and more fragile as local as transnational processes cut across them – from ethnicities, the new tribalism, global cities, devolution and the like. Economic change, from financialisation to the Third and/or Fourth Industrial Revolution(s) and technological change, is more and more multi-level, above, below and cutting across states. And ideological shifts, from neoliberalism and libertarianism on the one hand to the new quasi-dictatorial populism on the other – both dividing the right and undermining the centre-left – are challenging the “public interest” state and traditional liberal democracy.

The “Reactive State” is not only being whipsawed and undermined, but is at the same time under growing pressure to deal – however ineffectively – with these challenges. What Rosenau called “Turbulence” and postmodernism constitute the new way of the world and “state capacity” is less and less effective and often counterproductive.

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&

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Conceptualizing Human Security; Promoting Peace

The concept of human security attempts to develop a bottom-up and localised perspective with promoting and advancing priorities which address insecurity. In making the individual and the group the referent objects of security, human security can be used a lens to (re)examine insecurity and what is needed for freedom from fear and want. This freedom from want is more in line with the general UN Millennium development goals. In line with this peace operations on a global scale have increasingly had a concern for protecting civilians, vulnerable groups, and capacity-building required to ensure peace. Human security prioritises preventative protection and empowering people to have ownership of their security, which ties into the key purposes of peace operations: protecting civilians and building peace. This article will examine three major aspects of human security: introducing the conceptual framework, practical examples in how human security affects peacebuilding and lastly the challenges of empowering vulnerable individuals to overcome their insecurity problems.

Deboshree Das

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Trajectories in Subjective Well Being among Youth in India

Background: Adolescence is a crucial phase in life for achieving human potential; it forms the foundation for future health and well-being and defines the trajectories into the next generation. Development in studies on subjective well-being has seen tremendous efforts go into quantifying subjective well-being in the population and scientists have increasingly identified well-being as an important area of academic research. However, many of the factors empirically linked to subjective well-being change dramatically over the life course of individuals. Therefore, a thorough understanding of how subjective well-being develops during different ages is necessary to successfully form any policy aimed at increasing positive well-being in the population.

The present study aims to examine the trajectory of subjective well-being from early adolescence to young adulthood, using a multi-parametric approach to creation of well-being index that includes different aspects, such as access to basic services, social context, self-opinion, household perception and quality of life, which would give a more robust indication of adolescent well-being.

Data: The study utilises data from the Young Lives Study, India. It is a longitudinal cohort study that gathers data on the community, household and child-level to improve understanding of the causes and consequences of childhood poverty and examine children's well-being through five rounds of survey data. The data collected from the last four rounds of the survey for the older cohorts was utilised to fulfil the study objectives. The average age of the participants in the older cohort was observed to be 12, 15, 19 and 22 years respectively for each successive survey. The study results are based on the final sample of 891 participants for whom complete data from all four rounds of the survey was available.

Methods: To examine the trajectory in subjective well-being a composite index was constructed using polychoric principal component analysis (PCA) method. It is an alternative method to PCA for calculating correlation between categorical variables and minimizing the violation of the normal distribution assumption when applied to discrete data. Ordinal alpha was calculated as a measure of reliability. The subjective well-being index for each consecutive round of the survey had ordinal alpha >0.70. To examine the trajectory of subjective well-being through ages 12 to 22 years, a Latent Growth Curve model

was fitted to the subjective well-being index estimating the latent variables that quantify the nature of change as well as individual differences in baseline and changes over time.

Results: The results show significant decline in subjective well-being with age indicating that subjective well-being among individuals tends to decline as their age increases. The study also observes a negative covariance between the slope and intercept of the model indicating that the higher the value of subjective well-being the slower is the change in subsequent years. The study results also show that there is no significant difference in subjective well-being among girls and boys. The study findings indicate that interventions at an early age of would be more effective in improving the overall well-being among youth in India.

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Vitalism and Processualism as Key Dimensions of Contemporary Anthropology

We tackle here the epistemological trends known as vitalism and processualism as key dimensions of contemporary anthropology, at work in several influential authors. Sociocultural anthropology has developed in the Western world thanks to a confluence between the intense experience of otherness in non-Western contexts and the fundamental questions that haunt Western self-consciousness concerning the meaning of life, nature and reality. These questions were mostly formulated in the philosophical realm, in a dialectic and intricate millenary process. Modernity involves a specific rearrangement of those questions, in a peculiar pattern that permeates the emergence of human sciences – and anthropology in it. A series of concomitant changes in the Western social and cultural configuration happening between the 17th and 18th centuries brought to the fore a rationalizing movement actualized in the Newtonian scientific revolution and in the French Lumières. The Enlightenment – as this movement may be named – unleashed strong reactions, in several levels, that can be summarized by the term Romanticism (often resorting to empiricism as an epistemological counterforce to rationalism). Two dimensions of that reaction are here at stake. Vitalism emerged very early as a rejection of mechanic models in the understanding of the animate world, emphasizing a series of qualities (flow, experience, subjectivity, totality, etc.) considered as irreducible to immediate materialistic interpretations. Processualism is a much more recent category, descriptive of philosophical trends that emphasize the “processual” dimension of reality, encompassing some of the vitalistic topics. An intense interaction between philosophy and anthropology concerning those trends allowed for the constitution of a common contemporary field, involving the influence of – among others – F. Nietzsche, H. Bergson, A. N. Whitehead, L. Wittgenstein, G. Canguilhem and G. Deleuze, on one side, and the work of M. Gluckman, C. Geertz, V. Turner, T. Ingold and V. Das, on the other. It is

our task here to briefly expose the complexity of this field, as widespread as implicit in present anthropological endeavor.

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Examining the Most Important Factors Affecting the Egyptian Family's Choice of the Ideal Number of Children in the Light of the 2015 Demographic and Health Survey

The study aims to determine the most important factors affecting the selection of the optimal number of children within the Egyptian family, according to the latest demographic and health survey for the Arab Republic of Egypt issued by the DHS Program is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). This study aims of supporting officials and planners in various areas of comprehensive development, especially in light of what Egypt is facing from the aggravation of the population issue in relevance to the high population growth, as the number of Egypt's population rose from 72.8 million according to the 2006 census, then to 94.8 million in the 2017 census, and to 101.5 million population on 1 January 2021, an increase of 7.1 million people over the last census data, (51.5% males, 48.5% females), and the gender ratio was 106.1 males for every 100 females. This would represent a direct threat to devour the elements of economic development that Egypt recently started to achieve a qualitative leap in the economy. Egyptian society is considered a young society, where the age group (0-15) constitutes about a third of the population with a percentage of 34.2% and the percentage of the age group (15-64) 61.9%, while the % the elderly population (65 years and over) was estimated at only 3.9% at the beginning of the year 2021. This is considered as a demographic gift that must be exploited as a real opportunity by supporting the components of comprehensive development on the right tracks. The results has revealed a set of critical factors which were included in proposed statistical model representing both of making decisions for using money or health care within the family, marital status, ideal marriage age for a girl, and the no. of male children, it has shown that the these factors combined affecting significantly the Egyptian families choices about the ideal number of children in terms of are considered the most important factors determining the chances of the family towards having ≤ 2 Child. It recommended to continue to employ the alternative means and solutions within the awareness programs to control these factors, and this in turn to motivate Egyptian families to control population growth rate at two child per family at the level accepted internationally, and alongside with the progress towards the human and sustainable development goals in Egypt by 2030 for

becoming future-Proof in favor of the next generation chances of Egyptians.

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Conceptualizing Gray Zone Activities as a New Typology

Understanding states' ability to move in the international system is one of international relations most theoretically examined concepts. In this pursuit, power has emerged as the ultimate determinant of state position in many corners of IR. At the same time, researchers need a clearer concept of how movement occurs outside our traditional understanding of power's characteristics while ignoring more strategic, agency-based means of movement, alienating both literatures from IR theorists and international security experts.

This paper proposes a conceptual framework derived from the most important characteristics of short-of-war strategies, those which states use to accomplish their goals with the intention of avoiding conventional war. Examples include false information campaigns, cyber-attacks, threats of force, shows of force, and territorial violations. I identify foundational characteristics of short-of-war strategies that often need clarification in previous research and policy documents because there exists little coherent agreement over definitions. My framework allows salient conceptualizations of short-of-war strategies to apply to IR theory. I illustrate the framework with empirical evidence aligning with the most popular cases in the short-of-war literature to provide an important addition to the international security field.

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Why are Widows Dying More than Married Women in India? A Constructed Social & Economic Disadvantage among Women in Post-Widowhood

With its large population, India is capable of upsetting global epidemiological patterns. Despite a few attempts to document the impact of cause-specific mortality on life expectancy in India, the country has been facing the problem of a lack of reliable and regular information on the leading causes of death (CoD). However, this information is essential for drafting changes in public healthcare policy, allocating healthcare finances, and distributing healthcare personnel. In this context, this study estimates the potential gains in life expectancy if the country could eliminate a particular cause-specific premature death.

For the analyses, we used the data from the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI) wave 1 (2017-18), which provides information on deceased HH members within the last two years and their causes of death. The study applies the standard (single decrement) life table approach for estimating the probability of death (nq_x) life expectancy at age x (e_x), adult mortality ($45q_{15}$) and premature mortality ($70q_0$). While the Cause-Deleted Life Table approach was considered for estimating the potential gain in life expectancy by avoiding the particular CoD.

The study found that eliminating 'NCDs' and 'symptoms, signs, & ill-defined conditions'-related deaths would potentially increase life expectancy at birth in the country by 7.37 years (95% CI: 7.32-7.42) and 6.70 years (95% CI: 6.76-6.73), respectively. At age 60, avoiding deaths from NCDs and symptoms, signs, & ill-defined conditions would potentially increase life expectancy by 4.23 years (95% CI: 4.19-4.27) and 5.95 years (95% CI: 5.91-5.99), respectively. While avoiding all communicable, maternal, perinatal & nutritional deaths would only add 2.6 years (95% CI: 2.64-2.74) at birth and 0.68 years (95% CI: 0.66-0.70) at age 60. Further, eliminating deaths from injury would extend life expectancy by 1.35 years (95% CI: 1.35-1.40) at birth and 0.39 years (95% CI: 0.37-0.41) at age 60.

Avoiding deaths caused by noncommunicable diseases and symptoms, signs, & ill-defined conditions-related deaths would greatly help to improve life expectancy at birth in India. Also, avoiding symptoms, signs, & ill-defined conditions-related deaths at older ages is equally important for increasing life expectancy. In conclusion, we

advance that study adds significantly to the efforts towards generating reliable CoD information and consistent surveillance and monitoring of mortality and causes of death statistics in India. Thus, it suggestively helps in designing and strengthening public health policy and programs in India.

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Japan's Contribution to International Peace

It is well-known that Japan is called “a peace-loving country”. It is partly because Japan is an only state that suffered from atomic bomb, partly because the state's constitution prohibited the possession of official military forces, and partly because, therefore, Japanese citizen earnestly desire for international peace and order. The Japanese Government has long supported the “UN-centered policy” in the state's diplomacy.

However, the current number of the Japanese Self Defense Forces (SDFs) deployed in UN peacekeeping operations is merely four, almost the bottom of the international ranking. Essentially, joining the UN operations, which is neutral and non-coercive, should be ideal for Japan. How can one explain the contradiction between the status of peace-loving country and the token participation in UN-led operations? In explaining the contradiction, this article will discuss about the weaknesses (or restrictions) and strengths (or advantages) of Japan in pursuing for contributing to international peace through UN operations. In terms of restrictions, this article will describe: 1. legal restriction: Japan's peaceful constitution and the PKO Law; 2. diplomatic restriction: criticism from neighboring countries; and 3. situational restriction: current “no peace and no keep” situation in international society. In terms of the advantages, this article will describe: 1. advantage by the state's record in the UN; 2. advantage by the state's diverse and comprehensive approach to international peace; and 3. advantage in the current situation of international peace and security.

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**Putin's Use of Gendered Rhetoric:
The Narrative of Masculinist Nationalism as a Path to
Political Legitimacy**

During his second presidential term, Vladimir Putin has consolidated his position of a strong, independent leader. Often regarded by international media as a charismatic head of state with a personality cult, Putin's mission is to preserve traditional Russian values, allegedly threatened by the West. The emphases on macho presentation and uses of emotional rhetoric, aimed on creation of Russian nationalism narrative, with its very characteristic masculine attributes, are results of efforts to ensure ontological security, and a tool Putin uses to increase his political legitimacy. This study focuses on instrumental deployment of Putin's rhetoric, employing discourse analysis, examining speeches and public statements during Putin's second presidential term 2012-2022. Study found out Russian leader uses an emphasis of his own masculinity and Russian manliness, relegates women to the "traditional roles" of mothers, wives and sexual objects, or points out the key position of the traditional Russian family, since these are important parts of his narrative of masculine nationalism. The narrative of masculinist nationalism is an effort to create a sense of adequate political leadership, providing protection and security against perceived threats, highlighting national memory and traditions, boosting Russian sense of "us" and emphasising the allegedly hostile attitude of the West. This approach, among other things, affects the societal perception of women and their status, as society is masculinised and the emphasised narrative of nationalism is becoming widely accepted by the Russian public.

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On The Triple Connection between Morality and Politics

The purpose of politics is order and long-term stability. To achieve this goal, on the one hand, rely on morality; On the other hand, rely on strength. It is for this reason that since the Han Dynasty, "outside Confucianism and inside law" has become the traditional Chinese monarch's idea of governing the country: Confucianism provides political legitimacy for political order, while Legalism consolidates the country's violent foundation through killing decisions, and plays a decisive role in the actual political order. It is political idealism to emphasize the positive role of moral argument and moral education in people's compliance with the rules; On the contrary, it is political realism to emphasize the normative role of severe punishment on people's behavior and the political stability guaranteed by the basis of force. Truth is neither pure ideal nor pure reality, but between ideal and reality. Sometimes it is partial to the ideal, sometimes it is partial to the reality. To transform reality according to ideals and realize ideals in reality, morality and politics are mutually reinforcing.

Morality determines the stability of political order in three aspects: first, moral theory is the basis for justifying political order. In Chinese and Western political philosophy, scholars of different schools try to justify political order in different ways. In western political philosophy, the most important are social contract theory and utilitarianism. In Chinese political philosophy, the most typical is the Confucian theory of "benevolent government". Secondly, whether the words and deeds of political leaders conform to the moral principles is a sign of the legitimacy of the relevant political order. It is for this reason that the Chinese political thought emphasized "rule of morality" at the beginning of its birth, especially the Confucian doctrine, which has become the official ideology in the past two thousand years, and developed the thought of "internal saints and external kings " after repeated writings of several generations of Confucian scholars. Thirdly, people within the political regime, who voluntarily follow the political order, own some moralities of citizens. Of course, morality is not the whole of politics. Politics must be based on the monopoly of force to maintain stable order.

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Exercising Soft Power: A Comparison of Narratives about the 1971 War in Cinema, Television Shows and Web Series

The concept of power is central in the disciplines of political science and international relations; and for long its understanding was confined to the military or hard power of a state. But, as global politics transformed culture, ideology and foreign policy came to be categorized as source of soft power (Nye, 1990). The existing literature on soft power debates about its characteristics, effectiveness, functionality and sources. Popular culture sources like cinema, dance, literature, music, television shows, web series are frequently analysed and discussed sources of soft power, but only in context of some states. All the states possess these sources but only the cultural hegemony have the capability to transform them into effective sources of soft power.

This paper is a comparative study of cinema, television shows and web series produced in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan about the 1971 War. These three states were party to the conflict, and in 2021 as the war completed its 50th anniversary Bangladesh celebrated its 'liberation', India commemorated its 'victory' and Pakistan recollected 'the fall of Dhaka'. It was a turning point in South Asian history and the literature in all the three states is flooded with multiple narratives about the events. Interestingly there are only a handful of pieces of cinema, television shows and web series produced in the three states which highlighted their interpretations, perception and understanding of the 1971 War. Through such mediums of communication one does not only portray his/her perspective but can reach masses and shape their opinions. Thus, through such mediums states exercise soft power. The paper makes an attempt to critically analyse and compare the effectiveness of such attempts of exercising soft power by these three states.

It is a qualitative study, which specifically looks at works of fiction and autobiographies or biographies which were adapted to screen. Documentaries about the war were not a part of this study. The cinema, television shows and web series related to this war were produced over several decades, were the site of observation and analysis. Cinema, television shows and web series all were selected, as 1971 War related content by the three states is scattered in all the three mediums. Further with the coming of OTT platforms some old pieces of cinema and television shows originally produced for local audiences have also

found new audience and marketing spaces. Comparisons were drawn between how the same set of events has been portrayed in the productions in the three states and the narratives they have aimed to develop. The analysis was carried out using narrative analysis. The paper begins with a brief discussion on soft power, its sources, their effectiveness and which states are able to effectively utilize it. This is followed by a comparative analysis of the key events and themes portrayed in these productions. Lastly it concludes with a discussion about the cultural hegemon amongst the three states which has been able to successfully shape the opinions about the 1971 War.

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What you need to know when estimating Impact Functions for Demographic Research

In demography, many research questions examine the total causal effect of an event (e.g., marriage, divorce, parenthood) on certain outcomes (e.g., earnings, well-being, health). Allison (1994) described this approach as asking for “the effects of events”. Experiments are in most cases not viable for analysing the effects of events in the social sciences, because manipulating them is unethical or not practically feasible. Therefore, cross-sectional survey data have traditionally been used as an alternative. Another research design for identifying the effect of events uses panel data. Panel data offer the possibility of implementing within-person designs for identifying causal effects. The main advantage of within-person designs is that time-constant confounders will not bias the estimation of the treatment effect. Thus, the unbiased identification of a treatment effect hinges on the much weaker assumption (compared to cross-sectional designs) that all time-varying confounders are controlled for in the analysis. In most cases, demographers implement a within-person design by using fixed-effects (FE) regressions. Therefore, it is no surprise that with the advent of more and more panel data, the estimation of treatment effects by using FE regression is a growing business in demographic research. With long-running panel data, as they are meanwhile widely available, one observes many treated individuals for more than one time period after treatment. Given this set-up, it is even possible to estimate time-varying treatment effects, i.e., one can estimate the time-path of a causal effect. We term such a causal time-path “impact function”, a term we borrow from Andreß et al. (2013).

Impact functions obviously provide more insight, since we learn more than when estimating a time-constant treatment effect. Therefore, the recent demographic literature using FE methodology increasingly reports impact functions. The basic methodology of estimating impact functions with panel data and fixed-effects regressions is now widely known. Yet it is our impression that many researchers are not fully aware of the methodological subtleties of the approach, which may easily lead to biased estimates of the impact function. In this paper, we highlight potential pitfalls and provide guidance on how to avoid these in practice. We demonstrate these issues with exemplary analyses,

using data from the German Family Panel (pairfam) study and estimating the effect of motherhood on life satisfaction.

We conclude with a list of recommendations for applied research, regarding construction of panel data estimation samples and modeling of impact functions.

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**An Exploration into the Role Played by Women in
Establishing Food Security amongst the Youth:
The Case of Soweto, Johannesburg**

Food insecurity is a prevalent social problem in South Africa in general. Specifically, it is estimated that nearly one-fifth of youth in Soweto, Johannesburg is food insecure. This paper explores a group of women that are part of the Kotula Garden Project and are attempting to decrease the widespread food insecurity through the establishment and management of vegetable gardens in Soweto. The project targets children and youth between the ages of six and eighteen. The urban project faces challenges, including but not limited to, funding and vandalism of the vegetable gardens. Nonetheless, approximately 350 families are beneficiaries of the produce from the vegetable gardens through their young family members.

This study employs qualitative methods to investigate the women's motive for working in these vegetable gardens, despite not receiving regular wages for their labour. Furthermore, the findings highlight that the women do not take the produce for their consumption, or sell it, which is contrary to most findings of urban agriculture studies. The empathy-altruism theory is utilised as the framework for this study and the findings indicate that the women working in the vegetable gardens do so out of a desire to make community members in Soweto, especially youth, food secure.

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&

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United Us Stand? Explaining Varying Support to Ukraine

The war in Ukraine has fostered a renewed sense of common purpose and solidarity among NATO allies. It has also exposed deep-seated divisions regarding the fate of the European strategic architecture and Russia's place within that regional security complex. These divergences risk dividing NATO both cross-nationally and domestically vis-à-vis its most pressing threat. Some allies adopted hawkish positions by seizing the opportunity of Ukraine's unexpected resistance to permanently weaken Russia and harden NATO's defense and deterrence posture against its founding enemy. Others have rather sought diplomatic compromises between Russia's demands and Ukraine's sovereignty, emphasizing the need for Europe to find ways to live at peace with Russia. These hawkish and dovish postures have been said to explain the considerable disparity between the level of military support afforded to Ukraine by individual NATO members, but no study has yet examined this relationship rigorously.

This paper examines why and how democratic allies conflict in terms of diplomatic and defense postures towards Ukraine and Russia. More specifically, it offers a qualitative comparative analysis of NATO allies' political and military support to Ukraine to uncover the potential discrepancies between words and deeds, as well as to identify the causal paths leading to uneven burden-sharing. We test several contending factors that may shape varying levels of political and military support, including (but not restricted to) geographical proximity, political ideology, strategic culture, Ukrainian diasporas, and parliamentary war powers. We conclude with some implications for the study of burden-sharing and the fate of Europe's security architecture.

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**Disrupted Transition to Adulthood:
Causes and Effects of Divorce at a Young Age in Rural
Malawi**

Background: Marriage is almost universal in rural Malawi and is a key marker of adulthood. Divorce is also common, particularly if young, and if the marriage was due to a pregnancy. Some research has suggested that divorce at a young age may 'reset' the transition to adulthood as it may enable the young person to restart school and improve their prospects. In Malawi, children are expected to stay with the mother following divorce, and the ex-husband is often seen as comparatively unburdened. However, some studies have recognised a more nuanced picture of the effect of young marriage and divorce on men, who also experience effects on their education and well-being.

Objectives: Data from the Karonga Health and Demographic Surveillance Site in Malawi is used to explore the effects of gender and child-bearing on first marriage, divorce and remarriage and on other adulthood markers following a divorce.

Methods: Data from 2004 to 2017 were included. 5 analyses were carried out: 1. Survival analysis including participants who were never married at the age of 15 examining outcome of first marriage within 10 years; 2. Survival analysis including participants with first marriage before the age of 20 (women) or 22 (men), examining outcome of marital disruption; 3. Survival analysis including participants divorced before the age of 20 (women) or 22 (men), examining outcome of remarriage. The main explanatory variable was time-varying,

indicating having or expecting a child [analyses 1 & 3] or indicating the timing of the first birth (pre-marital or within marriage conception) [analysis 2]. 4. Logistic regression including one record per participant at age 20 (women) or 22 (men), with binary outcome of living without parents; 5. Logistic regression as above, with binary outcome of currently in school. For analysis 4 & 5 the interaction between marital status (only never married or divorced) and having children was assessed. Models in all 5 analyses were controlled for age, year, socio-economic status, household composition and information about spouse where relevant.

Results: For men, having or expecting a child was associated with higher chance of first marriage; for women having a child was associated with lower chance and expecting a child with higher chance. Birth within marriage was protective against marital disruption for men; for women pre-marital conception was associated with higher chance of disruption. For divorced men, having a child was associated with lower chance of remarriage; for women, having and expecting a child were associated with lower chance. Divorced men and women were more likely to live without their parents, compared to their never married counterparts. Divorced men and women were much less likely to be in school compared to those who were never married: there was strong evidence that having children made being out of school more likely for divorced women only.

Conclusion: Having children affected marriage and divorce in both men and women. A divorce did not 'reset' transition to adulthood for either sex, but women may be more at a disadvantage with respect to returning to school.

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Assessment of Age and Date Reporting among Black Population in South Africa

Introduction: The findings of earlier studies on the accuracy of demographic data and digit preferences in South Africa tended to be more generic in nature and less focused on the different ethnic populations. Digit preference and, by extension, data quality, have been shown in other studies to vary between cultures. As such, the aim of this study was to assess the accuracy of the reported age and birthdate among the various cultural subgroups of the Black racial group in South Africa.

Data and Methods: Data from the latest South African census conducted in 2011 were used for the study. However, the analysis was limited to a total of 3174825 Black/African population whose first language was one of the various ethnic languages spoken in the country. The data was analyzed using graphs to detect bias towards certain numbers in the respondents' reported birth dates and ages, (but excluding the 31st day because it occurs only in some months). Furthermore, the quality of the data was evaluated using Myers' index to determine if certain digits were preferable or avoided in the reporting of age.

Results: Analysis of day and month of birth showed a bias for reporting the first days of months while those at the end were avoided, indicating that the reporting was skewed towards certain dates. The most frequently reported day of birth was the first day of the month, while the least frequently recorded day was the 30th. Furthermore, the graph revealed spikes in the percentage of individuals reporting the same digit for both the day and month of birth, with the highest percentages being January 1st. However, the inclination to report similar digits subsided with subsequent days of the month, perhaps further indicating avoidance of such numbers.

Additionally, evaluation of the reported age using Myers' index revealed that there was a bias towards digits ending in "1," "5," "6," and "9," while those ending in "0" and "3" were largely avoided. The preference for these digits varied among the ethnic groups, however, with those speaking Xitsonga and Tshivenda having the highest age-heaping. On the other hand, those whose reported first language were Sesotho and Setswana had the least heaping. Although, there were no discernible preference for some digits between males and females, there

was a clear difference among individuals with different educational levels with preference appearing mostly amongst those with no education and less among those tertiary education level.

The findings of this study showed a preference for digits ending in "1" for both reported dates of birth and ages. However, these preferences varied between the various ethnic groups, individuals with different educational levels, and by sex of the respondents.

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Mind the Gap: Analyzing the Discontinuity between Antenatal Care and Facility-Based Delivery among Filipino Mothers

Maternal mortality is among the top causes of death among Filipino women. Compared to neighboring countries, the maternal mortality rate in the Philippines has been declining at a painfully slow rate. To prevent these deaths, global and national health agencies recommend that pregnant women undergo antenatal care (ANC) assisted by skilled health professionals and consequently deliver in a health facility. However, while most pregnant Filipino women are able to meet the minimum requirement of having at least four ANC contacts, a significant proportion of the same women still end up giving birth outside health facilities.

The primary objective of this study is to uncover the factors associated with facility-based delivery, with a view to examining the gap that exists between ANC and facility-based delivery (FBD) in the Philippines.

Using data primarily from the 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey, this research was conducted on a sample of 5,569 Filipino women who had at least four ANC contacts for their most recent pregnancy (ANC-seeking mothers) leading to live birth. Average marginal effects of covariates derived from binary logistic regression revealed that higher educational attainment, first-order births, complications, wealth, health insurance, and residing in a region with more health facilities, are associated with an increase in the probability of FBD. Being Muslim and later-order births are associated with a decrease in FBD probability.

In addition, characteristics of ANC that the mother received, particularly higher frequency of ANC contacts and receiving the recommended basic ANC services, are also linked to an increase in the probability of FBD. Controlling for other factors, these ANC characteristics are found to be significantly associated with the probability of FBD.

This research suggests that education and financial capacity, including having health insurance, are key to greater access to maternal healthcare services. The ability to frequently have ANC checkups and utilize ANC services also serve as indicators of how likely a mother will be able to deliver in a health facility. Recommendations provided in this

study include enhancing healthcare infrastructure, strengthening public healthcare through additional subsidies for healthcare costs, and focusing on the improvement of the quality of ANC services.

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The Problem of Returning to the “Things Themselves” in the IR Theorisation: Phenomenology’s Possible Use in the Study of the Pre-Theoretical, Immediate Givenness of the IR Phenomena and Events

International relations studies reside on co-constituted and co-assumed actors, objects and meanings without self-standing correspondence in the “objective” reality. This is a purely intersubjective field where theorisation lacks such an independent anchor in contrast to the positive sciences. The IR theorisation tends therefore to build constructs/interpretative frameworks based on preceding and subjective world-views, and to fill these frameworks with according narratives on the phenomena and events they study. Theorisation thus becomes more than it intends to be, as it involuntarily assumes a *genetic* function which takes the immediate, lived givenness of the phenomena and events as malleable material. The multiplicity of the IR theories stems from the multiplicity of the pre-postulated world-views, when immediate givenness of phenomena and events is not multiple. The fundamental problem of the IR theorisation is its involuntary-yet-inherent lack of access to its subjects in a non-genetic way, “as they appear/ are given”. From here stems the (secondary) problem of temporal distortion: The theory tends, because of its “genetic function”, to juxtapose its own narrative of the *genesis* of the phenomenon or event upon the immediate, lived, therefore *post-genetic* givenness, which does not necessarily equate to its narrated “genetic moment”, thus furthering the alteration of the study object.

As representative examples: The realist/ structural realist approach, however it adopts *pre-theoretical* references such as the *State-as-Subject*, brings a *posteriori* frameworks of power-relations and interests that shape an “altering” narrative of the interstate interactions. The constructivist theorisation takes the intersubjective nature of the IR field into account but defines intersubjectivity as a product of its own postulated social/ psycho-social processes and proceeds into a narrative in accordance with them. The post-structuralism’s critical approach to “metanarrative” becomes itself an *attitude* equivalent to theorisation with its alternative and equally selective *a priori* and anchors through which de-centering is performed as a narrative with similar complications.

At that point, how the IR phenomena and events may be worked with as they are immediately, pre-theoretically, intersubjectively given and not as a narrative of a theoretical construct becomes a legitimate question. Here the Husserlian phenomenology may provide useful answers, with the integration of some concepts of Heidegger's "phenomenological ontology". The main tools of this *descriptive* way of approaching the IR will be the universal and eidetic reductions for putting into perspective the theoretical attitude as attitude, the construct as construct and the narrative as narrative in order to display the phenomena's and events' *generic way of presenting themselves*, yet within the particularity of the givenness at hand, which appresents its *temporality* in retention-protention and anticipatory horizon; its related, constitutive subjects in their *Mitsein* within their referential intersubjective environment as *Mitwelt*. Here, diverting from their Husserlian equivalents that relapse both into egology *and* constructivist-like genetic formula of social processes, the Heideggerian terms of *Mitsein* and *Mitwelt* will be employed to define the interaction on the ground of the Subjects' being-relative-to-others, which the IR phenomena and events appear as forms.

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**Geopolitics of Supply Chains:
Examining the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for
Prosperity (IPEF)**

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the reconstruction of global supply chains is being premised on geopolitics rather than just economic efficiency facilitated by globalisation. This is an unprecedented endeavour. Global supply chains in various industries have evolved based on the specific economic advantages of different countries in contributing to the diverse stages of the supply network. These advantages range from being a supplier of raw materials, intermediates, parts and components, to having the ability to design and market. Producers from different countries with distinct advantages were brought together to maximise economic efficiencies, but this rational is now being contested by geopolitical developments. Economic efficiency alone is no longer the driver of supply chains, with geopolitical imperatives becoming significant factors in the organisation of such networks.

This paper will attempt to assess the feasibility of geopolitically-driven efforts to reorient supply chains. It will reflect on the character of supply chain disruptions before and after the outbreak of COVID-19 to understand how geopolitics has become a major driver of such networks. It will review the prospects of the economic fundamentals of supply chains aligning with the geopolitical push. It would argue that efforts to reorganise supply chains by multi-country coalitions such as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) will encounter challenges as they try to reconcile geopolitical imperatives with economic efficiency. The paper will specifically explore a broad-based and new supply chain coalition like the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) – comprising Quad members (US, Japan, Australia and India) – and several Asian economies – for checking its postulate.

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Explaining Electoral Successes in Greek Parliamentary Elections: Is it the Economy Again?

This paper asks the following question: can the macroeconomic fluctuations of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) explain the electoral successes of political parties? Notwithstanding other important determinants such as the charisma of the leader of a popular political party or ideology, the economy may explain very well electoral successes. In this paper, I use a very simple variable to account for the economy, namely the rate of growth of GDP. It is claimed that years of relative higher growth are associated with the incumbent government retaining its power while years of zero or negative growth rates are related with the fall of an incumbent government. The 1974-2023 evidence of Greek economic growth and elections cannot reject the hypothesis that the economy plays a central role in explaining electoral successes and especially failures of incumbent governments.

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Physical and Verbal Partnership Violence: A Longitudinal Analysis of Interactional Driving Factors Among German Couples

Research questions: In this paper, we address firstly the pattern of domestic violence over the course of a relationship. Secondly, we examine the relative importance of interactional factors associated with domestic violence, in particular the intensity of conflict on various domains, partners' strategies of coping with conflicts, while keeping constant demographic characteristics and partnership context. Third, and related, we ask what is the estimated prevalence of physical and psychological violence in high risk relationships, that is, among couples with frequent conflicts as well as dysfunctional coping strategies and conflict behavior of one or even both partners?

Methods: We address these questions with analyzing a large German panel data set (pairfam, release 11.0) representative of the life-course of three birth cohorts born during the early 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s respectively. We rely on a machine learning algorithm, the Generalized Mixed-Effects Random Forest model (GMERF, see Pellagatti et al. 2021), to investigate the incidence of violence in partnerships, specifically, arguments using physical force within the last year (physical violence), and insults or verbal abuse within the last six months (verbal violence). Building on the GMERF algorithm, we estimate growth curves to investigate the longitudinal pattern of domestic violence over the course of a relationship. We calculate measures of variable importance to investigate the contribution of interactional factors to the explanation of domestic violence, while keeping couples' demographic characteristics and partnership context constant. Finally, we present predicted probabilities, conditional on couples' interactional features. Although the advantages of tree-based mixed-effects approaches over standard parametric models have long been acknowledged, and although several easy to implement algorithms have been developed meanwhile (see the review by Hu and Szymczak 2023), the approach has been seldomly used in demographic research and social science more generally.

Results: We find a regular pattern of the incidence of physical and verbal violence, with the probability of violent behavior by either partner increasing strongly during the first 2 to 4 years of a relationship, and then slowly coming down to lower levels until year 20 of the partnership (staying at high levels, however, for verbal violence). The observed patterns over duration the relationship can be explained to some extent by demographic and contextual factors, such as age and education of both partners, the division of labor and the employment career of both partners. However, the most important factors associated with partnership violence are the intensity of conflicts, the dyadic coping strategies of partners and, in particular, the reported conflict behavior. These factors almost completely explain the observed timely pattern of violence. Based on only these interactional factors, we estimate that the probability of the incidence of violence for “high risk” couples is as high as 19 percent (physical violence) or even 94 percent (verbal violence), compared to much lower levels for “low risk” and “mean risk” couples (at most 0.8 percent or 12 percent, respectively). Manipulative behavior of one partner (or both) is by far the most important predictor.

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Seek from Different Dream to Common Ground: 7.4 Joint Declaration and South-North Cooperation

The 1972 July 4 North-South Joint Declaration, which was based on the three principles of independence, peace, and great national unity, is significant because it was the first "North-South agreement" since the division of the Korean peninsula. It served as an occasion for the north and the south to negotiate and resolve mutually hostile situations. This also influenced the "North-South Basic Agreement" (which is an agreement about reconciliation, nonaggression, exchange, and cooperation between the north and the south, that was announced in 1992. The "North-South Joint Declaration" was issued by the heads of state of the north and south in June 2000, and the "North-South Summit Declaration" was issued on 4 October 2007.

The 50th anniversary in 2022, which reflects on the significance of the 4 July Joint Declaration will also be meaningful in regards to preparing for a future-oriented way for north-south cooperation. To this end, it is necessary to evaluate the historical significance of the 4 July Joint Declaration from various angles as well as seek and practice new relations that are in line with the times. In order to explore this type of solution, this paper would like to emphasize how to materialize the methodology of the 'common ground' by going one step further in view of the fact that the north and the south had a 'different dream' aspect in their respective domestic and international environments.

It has contributed to the easing of internal and external tensions during the 1970s by changing each other's names and narrowing the actual and physical distance between the dialogue, since the announcement of the 4 July Joint Declaration. The security instability on the Korean peninsula and the security interests, which are being pursued by the north and south, is causing some obstacles, which are due to the continuity of the 4 July Joint Declaration, so the need to improve the technic of dialogue and materialize north-south cooperation has never disappeared. This is due to the significance of the July 4 Joint Declaration, which can still be taken as a starting point for the movement for the reunification of the Korean peninsula.

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&

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Social Media and Surveillance Capitalism: Facebook, Political Polarization, Orwellian Dystopia, and American Democracy

The ever increasing use of social media, digital technology and artificial intelligence has allowed business corporations and governments to watch and scrutinize our activities, which has led observers to argue that George Orwell's dystopia is upon us. Since social media platforms have played a significant role in recent elections, it has been argued, especially in response to former President Donald Trump's repeated lies, misinformation, and disinformation on social media, especially Facebook and Twitter, that Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four is more relevant today than ever before. Some analysts have argued that the United States could sink into the kind of totalitarian control that Oceania experienced in 1984 (Klein, 2021) and that Trump's use of lies and acts of falsifying reality is truly Orwellian—it is a “way of changing perception and of asserting power” (Gopnik, 2017). Trump supporters, on the other hand, have called the big tech censorship—Trump's ban on Twitter and Facebook after the January 6 riot on the Capitol—as an Orwellian overreach (Grady, 2021). This paper is an attempt to assess whether big tech companies have created an Orwellian state in the U.S. I would argue that the idiom of the Orwellian dystopia has been misused by scholars, commentators, and politicians on the political left as well as the political right. Our analysis of social media, especially Facebook, will show that the social media companies are not intentionally trying to subvert American democracy. Instead, as a business, they are driven by a profit motive and the logic of “surveillance capitalism,” a concept advanced by Zuboff (2019). Using the concept, I will (a) examine the nature of social media surveillance in China and the U.S., (b) explore the connection between social media and political polarization in America, and (c) evaluate the impact of Facebook and Cambridge Analytica's use of big data and microtargeting on American democracy and its electoral process.

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**Income, Loan & Debt Accumulation and Financial Stress
among Breast Cancer Patients Seeking Treatment at India's
Largest Tertiary Cancer Care Center**

Background

Although cancer is a growing disease of concern in India, there is a lack of comprehensive data on the socio-economic and health status of breast cancer patients. The survival of breast cancer is low in India due to self and family negligence, social stigma, low standard of living and lack of social and financial safety nets. Compared to any other disease, cancer has adverse short and long-term consequences on the health of survivors. Besides, the economic burden of cancer treatment is tremendous, as patients often borrow or sell assets to meet the high treatment cost. Lack of insurance coverage for breast cancer patients leads to the medical poverty trap. In addition, breast cancer affects the productivity of young women and engages other productive family members in caregiving, which makes the household more vulnerable. In this context, this paper documents the economic profile of breast cancer patients using some of the important economic variables such as income, loans and debts and self-reported financial stress.

Methods

The study used primary data of 500 non-metastatic breast cancer patients seeking treatment at the country's largest cancer treatment centre in Mumbai, during June 2019 and July 2021. This study is registered on the Clinical Trial Registry of India (CTRI/2019/07/020142). The data had been collected at three time points: baseline or at the time of registration; endline which was at the time of treatment completion and follow-up visits which was after six months of treatment completion. Income, loans and financial stress were the

outcome variables used in this study. Descriptive statistics and ordered logistic regression model were used.

Results

Of the 500 patients three-fifths were under 50 years, with the median age being 46 years. More than half of the patients were from outside of the state and had travelled an average distance of 1,044 kilometres to get treatment. Only 9% of the patients were enrolled in any kind of health insurance scheme. About 85% of the patients were married and financially dependent. The financial condition of the households of the majority of the patients (91%) was poor or moderate. Almost two-third of the patients had taken loans for cancer treatment at the time of baseline, which increased to 65% during completion of treatment and 69% during first follow-up visits. Age, distance, health insurance coverage, and caste were significant factors associated with the self-reported financial condition of the patients.

Conclusions

Breast cancer in India is primarily affecting women in the prime working and reproductive age group. We found early age at onset of breast cancer late diagnosis and high indebtedness in treating breast cancer. Lack of adequate treatment facilities, travelling long distances and financial hardship for treatment are common among cancer patients in India. It is recommended to increase awareness, early diagnosis, multi-disciplinary treatment and increase coverage of health insurance for breast cancer patients.

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Contributions to the Political and Party Characterization of the Douro Region during the First Republic in Portugal

Based on specialized literature and contemporary press, we seek to characterize the political and partisan evolution of the Alto Douro (Portugal) during the First Portuguese Republic (1910-1926). We intend to identify the strategies and the political and clientelist networks of the Portuguese Republican Party in the various municipalities of the region in comparison with the prevalence of the cacique networks. We also intend to quantify the degree of implantation and growth of the Republican Party through the number of republican committees and centers and, finally, to recognize the strategies of the republican leaders faced with the challenges posed to the maintenance of the Party's predominance after the split of 1912 and the emergence of new party forces.

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Assessing Migration after Natural Disaster: A Housing Capacity Search Model

Emergencies and disasters rely on population data for effective management of the response. Standard approaches to population estimation cannot necessarily be implemented, as they rely on systems that may be interrupted or unavailable. When there is a sudden onset disaster such as wildfire, planners need to estimate the number of people displaced and to locate the affected population in the immediate aftermath of the emergency. Disasters are growing in frequency and severity, magnifying an unmet need for tools to rapidly assess and update population impacts.

This study reviews efforts undertaken in recent decades to understand and respond to three specific problems related to updating population estimates: how many people are affected by disasters; of those affected, how many people relocate and where do they move. Of those that move, how many return to their former residences and how long after the disaster do they return? A new method of rapidly addressing the scale and destination problems is presented, compared to alternatives, and assessed against validation data. The model uses housing, land cover, demographic, and employment data and is tested for the context of wildfires; specifically, two wildfires that occurred in California, USA during 2017-2019, which were of different scales of magnitude and affected populations with very different socioeconomic status. The model predicts the immediate relocation decisions of displaced persons in both contexts more accurately than the alternatives, based on surveys of past migration trends.

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Film Production Workers Community in Lithuania: Traits of Collective Identity

The history of cinema shows that for a long time it has been perceived as entertainment. Its late introduction into the world of art and science is undoubtedly one of the main reasons why cinema was late to attract the attention of researchers. However, over the last few decades, a significant increase in the number of academic studies in the film industry has been observed. Researchers' growing interest in the film industry has led to a desire to explore what is happening behind the scenes in movies.

The presentation is based on the data of the field research conducted in 2020-2021, which was collected using the interview method with 120 film production workers in Lithuania. The aim of this presentation is to reveal the traits of the collective identity through the professional language, unwritten rules, traditions, rituals, and superstitions of film production workers.

People who are at least somewhat familiar with the film industry can identify people who work in that field by the language they use. We can treat this as a cultural sign of a professional group, with which film production workers not only make sense of themselves and thus partially create their own identity, but also distinguish themselves as a group from other professional groups. Since the restoration of independence of Lithuania, foreign film production has also been carried out in Lithuania, it is natural that Lithuanian film production workers adopted the "brought" professional language, which is based on English.

The point of unwritten rules in the professional group of film production workers is to know what should be done, how it should be done, what should not be done, what behavior is appropriate and what is inappropriate. Most of the unwritten rules have come to the field of Lithuanian film production by big and famous film production companies when filming international projects in Lithuania, where the system of internal norms and rules is more based on the hierarchical principle and strict requirements to comply with them.

Traditions common in film production workers community are revealed: one of the most common in Lithuanian projects, is the tradition of smashing a plate to mark the start of filming. Quite often, the informants also emphasized "a hundred in a slate". Another long-

standing tradition is a team photo. The American tradition of gift-giving, which arrived at the end of 20th century to Lithuania is also found among film production workers in Lithuania. Superstitions, common among film production workers, are mostly aimed at luring success, dealing with fear or anxiety while working on the project or avoiding anything you do not want to happen.

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Correlates of War: Energy Prices and Causes of War - Cases Study Ukraine 2022

February 24th, 2022, Russian Federation commenced special military operation with main objective to demilitarize and denazify Ukrainian government. Since then, operation design to last between 3 and 7 days, lasted for 265 days, without end in sight. Recently hopes were raised by G20 Bali summit, which was visited by Russian Foreign Minister Sergiei Lavrov. But this paper main aim is to investigate mystery surrounding actual reason to why exactly Russian Federation decided to start this conflict.

The primary hypothesis is that underpinned reason for this conflict was twofold change which occurred in the middle of second decade of 21st Century and was connected with shale revolution in United States. The nature of this change reversed long-term tendencies which development of Russian Federation was dependent on. Thus quickly deteriorating capabilities to control natural gas and oil market, with breaking point was the inability to coerce European Union to complete Nord Stream 2, was the primary reason to decide that this closing window of opportunity to secure geopolitical objectives, mainly to impose political and military control over whole territory of Ukraine. Second hypothesis is that Russian Federation dependency on external market of energy carriers, which makes her essentially a rentier state, results in deterioration of international position, even with precautionary measures undertaken in order to survive economic sanctions.

Those hypotheses will be verified with application of factorial analysis and analysis of trend primed to assess and verify tendencies present on oil and gas market. Price of those commodities will be considered as an independent variable. The Power of Russian Federation will be considered a dependent variable. The major objective will be establishing and directing causation and/or correlation between those variables. This will require analysis and evaluation of contamination of those relation with intervening variables, such as COVID-19 global pandemics.

The structure will be divided on four consecutive chapters. First chapter will be dedicated to investigation of energy market with particular emphasis given to those factors which affect price of energy carriers. Second chapter will briefly present the consequences of shale

revolution. Third chapter will analyze the Russian Federation dependency on energy carriers export. And fourth chapter will investigate possible future correlation between situation on gas and oil market and war on Ukraine.

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**Fears, Desires and the Art of Tightrope Walking:
Nation-building Strategies of the Hungarian Political Elite
under the Austro-Hungarian Empire**

The modern history of Central Europe and the manifold conflicts of the nations in this region can only be understood through their nationalist traditions and nation-building programs, which were followed through two World Wars and during the Communist Era, right until the integration into the European Union – or even still today. In the last hundred years, national borders in this region have changed frequently, but none of these correction attempts led to ethnic homogeneity in the self-declared nation-states of Central Europe. Still, efforts had been made: nationalist governmental programs – coupled with chauvinist propaganda many times – were frequently based on historical rights and grievances, while forced assimilation of the ethnic minorities has been legitimized by the ‘sins’ of the earlier ‘ruling nation’, which had had political leadership before.

Since the Kingdom of Hungary had ruled the Carpathian Basin until 1918 and the Hungarian political elite had made every possible efforts to block the nationalist political program of the Serbian, Slovakian, Romanian, etc. minorities, ethnic Hungarians (Magyars) became targets of the most severe assimilation after the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. As a side-effect, 19th century Hungarian nationalism was depicted as an extremely chauvinist ideology, which had resulted in violent oppression and forced Magyarization in the everyday life of Non-Hungarians before 1918. This ideological underpinning of the Central-European nation-building had its influence on historiography. Political leaders and nationalist ideologists of 19th century Hungary were (and still are) judged one-sidedly and their agenda were understood from fragments of their whole train of thoughts. Thus Béla Grünwald (who put pressure on the government to close the Slovak language high schools in Hungary in the 1870s) or Albert Apponyi (who enacted educational laws to strengthen the instruction of Hungarian language in public schools in 1907) appeared as propagators of ethnic homogeneity and sworn enemies of non-Hungarian culture, while others like József Eötvös (enactor of the Nationalities’ Law in 1868) were depicted as crusaders of equality and multiculturalism. The majority of the current historical works are still

based on these stereotypes in Hungary as well as in the surrounding countries.

However, results coming from the analysis of historical sources contradict the traditional narratives of Hungarian nationalism. Instead of the polarization of Hungarian political elite (to chauvinists and progressives), they define a common national program of political integrity of the Carpathian Basin under Hungarian leadership, which is shared by every parties and political groups from Lajos Kossuth (who proposed the federalization of Central Europe) to the most ardent assimilationists (e.g., the aforementioned Béla Grünwald or Prime Minister Dezső Bánffy). Political debates and dilemmas revolved around not the end but the means of nation-building: and, at the same time, the most extreme nationalists shared many ideas with the 'lenient' side about the necessary limitations and restrictions of the ethnic expansionism.

The aim of my paper is to show the 19th Hungarian nationalism in its true form, with its many fears and dilemmas after the Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867.

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Illnesses and Hardship Financing in India: An Evaluation of Inpatient and Outpatient Cases, 2014-18

Background

Progress towards Universal Health Coverage requires protecting every individual and community from health-related financial distress. In developing countries, the increasing disease burden puts a lot of stress on scarce household finances. However, this burden is not the same for everyone. The economic burden varies across the disease groups and care levels. Government intervention is vital in decreasing financial distress. In India, even when outpatient care forms a significant proportion of out-of-pocket expenditure, government schemes focus on reducing household expenditure on inpatient care alone. Thus, people resort to hardship financing practices like informal borrowing or selling of assets in the event of health shocks. In this context, we aim to identify the disease(s) that cause maximum hardship financing for outpatients and inpatients and to understand the change in hardship financing in India over time.

Methods

We used two waves of National Sample Survey Organization's data on Social Consumption on Health- 71st and 75th rounds. Descriptive statistics are reported, and logistic regression is carried out to understand the adjusted impact of illness on hardship financing. Pooled logistic regression of the two rounds of the data is done separately for inpatients and outpatients. Marginal effects models are used to study the changes in hardship financing over time.

Results

The results suggest that cancer has the maximum likelihood of causing hardship financing in India for both inpatients and outpatients.

The marginal effects models of pooled cross-section analyses reveal that from 2014 to 2018, hardship financing decreased for inpatients, whereas it increased for outpatients.

Conclusion

The paper helps to identify the disease group against which the household requires the maximum financial protection. It also emphasizes how financial security at the outpatient level is essential to reduce hardship financing and reach the goal of Universal Health Coverage.

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Mongolia's Demographic Transition

Demographic changes are among the most important challenges facing societies, labor markets, and economies, especially in conjunction with other global processes such as climate and technological change. The demographic changes we see today are largely the result of earlier processes, whose social and economic implications are just starting to be felt. The trends we can observe relate to long-term features, such as a significant decline in the fertility rate and increased life expectancy. It is of increasing importance for governments to design and implement policies to reduce the negative effects of these demographic changes.

The purpose of this paper is to describe the evolution of population patterns and trends in Mongolia and to explain the implications of these trends for socioeconomic development and public policy. The report identifies and provides a rationale for various policy options that the national government, in collaboration with other stakeholders, may wish to adopt to address the key population and development issues facing Mongolia in the coming decades. To accomplish this task, it is important not only to review the recent demographic history of Mongolia but also to preview the projected population trends in the future.

Like most countries in the Asian and Pacific region, contemporary Mongolia is undergoing mobility transitions. Mongolia is in the midst of its demographic transitions and has pursued a model of economic growth that has been more focused on import substitution. On the other hand, Mongolia is in a demographic transition, witnessing a moderate, but decreasing, population growth, a sustained decline in fertility, and a steep increase in the number of young adults entering the labor market. Population growth reached a peak in the late 1960s and has started to decline since then, mainly because of a sharp decrease in fertility rates from 7.2 in 1975 to 2.8 in 1995. In 2000, the total fertility rate was 2.2 births per woman, but it dropped to the below-replacement level (2.1 births per woman) by 2004 (2.0 births per woman). But it significantly increased in 2014 and reached to 3.1 children per woman, then again it decreased to 2.8 in 2021.

Mongolia's population growth rate reached a peak of 2.9 percent during the period 1969-1979 and has declined steadily since. Declining fertility and the emigration of foreign residents were the main causes of the decline in the population growth rate. During the most recent

intercensal period (2010- 2020) the growth rate averaged 1.4 percent per year. Population growth reached 1.8 percent in 2021.

The paper also includes a wide range of observations, conclusions, and recommendations for public policy decision-makers at all levels, from local to national. The report also includes recommendations for the management of education, healthcare, labor market, and more general economic development, including guidance on how to better plan for and monitor and/or fund public support systems.

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The Relationship between Global Crises and Aggression

Purpose: Existing literature suggests there is a relationship between aggression and global crises as well as health pandemics. Despite previous research highlighting this relationship, research in the UK that examines this relationship, and particularly between the pandemic containment measures with aggression, has not been thoroughly examined. This pilot study investigates the aggression levels in the UK before and during the implementation measures for containing the latest global health crisis.

Design: For the needs of the pilot study, 149 participants (127 female and 21 males) completed an online questionnaire which measures aggression levels before and during lockdown.

Findings: The investigation showed that aggression increased during the lockdown periods, with themes of anger and loneliness also being identified through a content analysis. This project was one of the first to examine aggression during lockdown and isolation restrictions.

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The Diffusion Speed of Good vs. Bad News in Geo-Politics

This article investigates the commonly alleged hypothesis that bad news travels faster than good news. In the context of geopolitics, we conduct sentiment analyses of geo-political news streams for five different use cases. We measure the changes in sentiment per time unit for positive as well as for negative news and test for a higher rate of diffusion in news articles labeled with negative sentiment compared to those with positive sentiment. The analysis is conducted using statistical methods applied in options trading. Each use case is compared to the sentiment development of an independent news stream, while all use cases are analyzed alongside a common news stream. We cross-search geopolitically relevant country pairs and keywords to analyze the dependency of news diffusion speed on the type of conflict. The results show the framework in which certain news can potentially spread faster. We also analyze if the coverage of certain geopolitical hotspots is more reactive when there is less of it and if highly covered news streams are less susceptible to the travel of negative sentiment.

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Evolution of Malaria Research in India: A Bibliometric Analysis of Literature by Using Scopus Database

Background: Malaria fever has a long history and earliest records of it go back till Egyptian civilization. In Some parts of India, environment and topography provides perfect breeding grounds for the malarial parasite.

Method: A bibliometric analysis method was adopted to understand the evolution of research trend pertaining to malaria. All the research articles, books, book chapters, notes and policy documents published in Scopus indexed journals have been retrieved for analysis. The study period was selected between 1903 and 2023. VoS software has also been used to identify the most prominent themes and their occurrence in last hundred and twenty years.

Results: So far 4910 documents have been produced about malaria, we see that around 78.4% are research articles (3851), 8.38% review articles (430), 4.1% letters (202), 2.6% notes (127), 1.4% books chapters (70) and only 0.2% books (8). If we look at the discipline-wise distribution of these documents we find that the subject area of medicine has produced the highest number of research documents and accounts for almost half (n= 45.3%, 3403) of total material published regarding malaria. After that immunology and microbiology (n= 20.3%, 1526), biochemistry, genetics and molecular biology, (n= 8.5%, 636), contributed in the publications. Social Science' contribution is very limited as compared to other disciplines.

Conclusion: In malaria research, social sciences have not paid enough attention to understand to socio-cultural aspects of disease. Keyword analysis shows the recent developments of interests in the study of relation between climate change, non-human population and malaria. On the other hand, if we look at overall picture across the subjects regarding malaria research, we find that still more attention is been given on therapeutic and curative measures while prevention of disease is largely being ignored.

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**Maasai-Wazungu* Couples Living in Tanzania:
Anthropological Study of Long-Term Relationships**

Over the past decade Zanzibar has become a very popular holiday destination. In just five years, the number of tourists has almost doubled. At the same time many Maasai (mainly men) from mainland Tanzania migrate to Zanzibar for work purposes. These men find a job in the tourism sector, which means they are in regular contact with tourists. These meetings often result in developing closer relations with women from the so-called West. Some of them turn into long-term relationships, which sometimes end in marriage and often result in a change of one partner's place of residence, i.e., emigration of Maasai men to the tourists' countries of origin or the decision of women to live in Tanzania. Tourism in Zanzibar is sometimes defined in terms of romance tourism which is of particular importance in the postcolonial context. My presentation concerns five couples who have decided to live in Tanzania. I will discuss, among others, what kind of economic strategies they adopt in situation of no dual citizenship for adults in Tanzania; what actions are Western partners taking for the benefit of the Maasai community that they live in; how children are brought up as well as how gender relations are shaped in the aforementioned relationships. I will present what are the relationships like with the extended family and how the partners' performing of masculinity and femininity is changing. Maasai community is patriarchal, but relations with women from the Global North seems to be an alternative to gender relations understood in this way. I rely on my own ethnographic field research carried out in mainland Tanzania.

**Suah. mzungu (pl. wazungu) – white person.*

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