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Disease and prejudice: risk attribution to ethno-racial groups over the course of a pandemic

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Online Appendix

A1. Coding Approach for *Ethno-Racial*

The category *ethno-racial* included four subcategories *Chinese*, *Europeans*, *Immigrants*, and *Other ethno-racial labels*. In choosing which responses to include in those subcategories, we made four key decisions:

1. **Including people:** If responses referred to people only by their descent or place of origin, we counted these as ethno-racial references. This would include responses such as “Chinese”, “Italians”, “Africans”, “Arabs” or “foreigners”.
2. **Including country:** If respondents referred to a country or region as a whole, we counted this as an ethno-racial reference. This would include responses such as “Spain”, “Eastern Europe” or “Africa”.
3. **Excluding leaders:** If respondents only referred to scientists or political leaders from a certain country, we did not count these as ethno-racial references. This would include responses such as “Chinese scientists” or “Austrian government”. Note that these responses count towards the separate main category of “leaders” but that we considered them too narrow to be categorized as ethno-racial.
4. **Excluding place:** If responses referred to a country or region as a place, e.g. as a destination of travel, we did not count them as ethno-racial references. This would include responses such as “travelers from Wuhan” or “ski tourists in Austria”. Note that these responses count to the main category of traveler. Yet, we cannot meaningfully infer whether respondents meant Germans returning from their travels or whether respondents meant foreigners traveling to Germany. Thus, we stick with the more conservative assumption to exclude places from the ethno-racial category.

Below we provide examples for the kind of responses included in the respective subcategories.

*We are cognizant that some of the responses listed here are racist. We chose to display those as they were written down to illustrate the difference between seemingly neutral and explicitly racist answers.

Ethno-racial subcategory Chinese (n=636)	China_people (n= 426)	Chinese
	China_country (n= 210)	China, Wuhan *If people only wrote "China", we placed it in this subcategory. If the response was "China ([they] eat everything)", we counted it as China_people. If respondents wrote "China due to its late notice", we considered this as a reference to Chinese leaders.
Not included in ethno-racial subcategory (n=135)	China_leader (n= 60)	Chinese government, laboratories in China, Chinese scientists
	China_place (n= 75)	travelers from China, Visitors of the market in Wuhan
Ethno-racial subcategory Europeans (n=118)	EU_people (n= 42)	Italians, Spaniards, Austrians, South Tyroleans
	EU_country (n= 76)	Italy, Austria, Ischgl, Tyrol
Not included in ethno-racial subcategory (n=197)	EU_leader (n= 13)	Government of Austria
	EU_place (n= 184)	Ski tourists in Ischgl, party people in Ischgl
Ethno-racial subcategory Other ethno-racial labels (n=171)	Other_asian (n= 60)	Asians, Japanese, Japs* [<i>Japsen*</i>], Vietnamese
	Other_people (n= 35)	Russians, Rumanians, Bulgarians, Turks, Africans, Eastern Europeans
	Other_country (n= 33)	USA, Africa, Eastern Europe, Asia
	Other_other (n= 43)	Arabs, Nigger* [<i>Neger*</i>], Muslims [<i>Moslems</i>], Roma, other cultures
Not included in ethno-racial subcategory	Other_place (n= 108)	Persons who work abroad, tourists from distant countries, travelers from Asia
Ethno-racial subcategory Immigrants (n=605)	Foreign_migrant (n= 144)	Migrants, young migrants [<i>junge Migranten</i>], immigrants [<i>Zuwanderer</i>]
	Foreign_foreigner (n= 188)	Foreigners [<i>Ausländer</i>], foreign fellow citizens [<i>ausländische Mitbürger</i>], foreign adolescents
	Foreign_refugee (n= 176)	Asylum seekers [<i>Asylanten, Asylbewerber</i>], refugees
	Foreign_worker (n= 53)	Guest workers [<i>Gastarbeiter</i>], foreign workers [<i>Fremdarbeiter</i>], seasonal workers

Foreign_other

(n= 44)

Migrants who don't master the German language [*Migranten, die der deutschen Sprache nicht mächtig sind*], derogatory term for immigrants of Southern European and Arab origin* [*Kanaken**], large foreign/Turkish/Lebanese families [*ausländische, türkische, libanesische Großfamilien*], clans [*Clans*], massive weddings of Turkish families [*Großhochzeiten von türkischen Familien*]

A2. Sample Representativeness

Variable	Germany		Full Sample				Regression Sample				
	Mean	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Sociodemographics											
Female _i	0.51	10,346	0.50	0.50	0	1	7,902	0.50	0.5	0	1
Age _i	44.50	10,246	45.5	14.6	0	100	7,902	45.9	14.	18	100
Education _i	2.89	10,346	3.07	0.84	1	4	7,902	3.12	0.8	1	4
- No degree	0.08		0.02					0.01			
- 9 years of schooling	0.29		0.27					0.25			
- 10 years of schooling	0.30		0.34					0.34			
- Highschool degree	0.34		0.37					0.40			
Migration background _i	0.26	10,346	0.17	0.37	0	1	7,902	0.16	0.3	0	1
Household size _i	1.99	10,326	2.28	1.22	1	20	7,902	2.28	1.2	1	20
Party Preference											
AFD _i	0.10	10,323	0.10	0.30	0	1	7,902	0.10	0.3	0	1
CDU/CSU _i	0.37	10,323	0.21	0.41	0	1	7,902	0.22	0.4	1	1
SPD _i	0.15	10,323	0.10	0.30	0	1	7,902	0.10	0.3	0	1
FDP _i	0.06	10,323	0.05	0.22	0	1	7,902	0.05	0.2	2	1
Left party _i	0.07	10,323	0.09	0.28	0	1	7,902	0.09	0.2	8	1
Greens _i	0.19	10,323	0.14	0.35	0	1	7,902	0.15	0.3	6	1
Other _i	-	10,323	0.06	0.23	0	1	7,902	0.06	0.2	4	1
Undecided _i	-	10,323	0.16	0.36	0	1	7,902	0.14	0.3	5	1
Nonvoter _i	-	10,323	0.10	0.30	0	1	7,902	0.08	0.2	8	1

Source: WZB Corona Survey (2021); statista (2019); infratest-dimap (2020, averaged over the survey period)

A3. Descriptive Statistics

	Variable	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Outcome	Ethno-racial group mentioned	7,902	0.17	0.38	0	1
Economic Threat	Economic loss _i	7,902	0.18	0.38	0	1
	Perceived economic condition _i	7,902	2.60	0.90	1	5
	Econ. condition worsened _i	7,902	0.28	0.45	0	1
Disease Threat	Risk group _i	7,902	0.42	0.49	0	1
	Worried about self _i	7,902	2.69	1.13	1	5
	Worried about family _i	7,902	3.16	1.15	1	5
Disease Proximity	7-Day incidence	7,902	36.96	59.61	0	602.14
	Personal proximity _i	7,902	0.04	0.10	0	1
Party Preference	AfD _i	7,902	0.10	0.30	0	1
	CDU/CSU _i	7,902	0.22	0.41	0	1
	SPD _i	7,902	0.10	0.30	0	1
	FDP _i	7,902	0.05	0.22	0	1
	Left party _i	7,902	0.09	0.28	0	1
	Greens _i	7,902	0.15	0.36	0	1
	Other _i	7,902	0.06	0.24	0	1
	Undecided _i	7,902	0.14	0.35	0	1
	Nonvoter _i	7,902	0.08	0.28	0	1
Sociodemographic	Female _i	7,902	0.50	0.50	0	1
Controls	Age _i	7,902	45.97	14.58	18	100
	Education _i	7,902	3.12	0.83	1	4
	Migration background _i	7,902	0.16	0.37	0	1
	Contact foreign population _i	7,902	1.88	1.09	1	4
	Household size _i	7,902	2.28	1.20	1	20

Source: WZB Corona Survey (2021)

A4. Subsamples by Party Preference; Predictors of “Ethno-Racial” and “Traveler”

Variable	Subsamples by Party Preference		State & Wave Controls		State-Wave Controls	
	Non-AfD (1)	AfD (2)	Ethno-Racial (3)	Travel (4)	Ethno-Racial (5)	Travel (6)
Economic Threat						
Perceived econ. condition _i	0.0017 (0.0052)	0.0078 (0.0181)	0.0031 (0.0050)	-0.0067 (0.0065)	0.0017 (0.0052)	-0.0081 (0.0065)
Econ. condition worsened _i	0.0212** (0.0106)	-0.0063 (0.0403)	0.0164 (0.0104)	0.0033 (0.0136)	0.0203* (0.0109)	0.0047 (0.0137)
Economic loss _i	0.0142 (0.0119)	-0.0499 (0.0467)	0.0100 (0.0118)	-0.0064 (0.0154)	0.0119 (0.0124)	-0.0078 (0.0155)
Disease Threat						
Worried about self _i	0.0182*** (0.0055)	0.0181 (0.0214)	0.0189*** (0.0054)	-0.0096 (0.0069)	0.0189*** (0.0058)	-0.0084 (0.0069)
Worried about family _i	-0.0103* (0.0053)	0.0013 (0.0199)	-0.0087* (0.0052)	0.0372*** (0.0065)	-0.0087 (0.0055)	0.0369*** (0.0066)
Risk group _i	-0.0122 (0.0105)	-0.0178 (0.0385)	-0.0122 (0.0102)	-0.0098 (0.0126)	-0.0115 (0.0107)	-0.0111 (0.0126)
Disease Proximity						
7-Day incidence _c	0.0003* (0.0001)	-0.0007 (0.0007)	0.0002 (0.0001)	-0.0002 (0.0002)	0.0003 (0.0002)	-0.0001 (0.0002)
Personal proximity _i	-0.0519 (0.0476)	-0.0008 (0.1676)	-0.0556 (0.0458)	-0.0229 (0.0572)	-0.0452 (0.0477)	-0.0334 (0.0582)
Party Preference						
AfD _i			0.1292*** (0.0173)	-0.0202 (0.0264)	0.1318*** (0.0182)	-0.0192 (0.0264)
CDU/CSU _i			-0.0075 (0.0170)	0.0651*** (0.0230)	-0.0069 (0.0176)	0.0605** (0.0230)
SPD _i			-0.0241 (0.0196)	0.0557** (0.0259)	-0.0296 (0.0204)	0.0540** (0.0260)
FDP _i			0.0386* (0.0223)	0.0855*** (0.0302)	0.0403* (0.0233)	0.0852*** (0.0304)
Left party _i			-0.0452** (0.0209)	0.0716*** (0.0266)	-0.0513** (0.0216)	0.0726*** (0.0268)
Greens _i			-0.0574*** (0.0191)	0.0938*** (0.0240)	-0.0597*** (0.0197)	0.0909*** (0.0240)
Other _i			-0.0177 (0.0223)	0.0561** (0.0290)	-0.0202 (0.0230)	0.0463 (0.0290)
Undecided _i			-0.0117 (0.0181)	0.0917*** (0.0240)	-0.0185 (0.0186)	0.0858*** (0.0241)
Controls						
Wave, state	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
State-wave	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Socio-demographics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	7,091	811	7,902	7,902	7,574	7,810

WZB Corona Survey (2021); Logistic regression results; Coefficients show average marginal effects. The dependent variable in columns (1) and (2) is ethno-racial group naming for subsamples of non-AfD voters and AfD-voters. Columns (3) to (6) alternate between the naming of ethno-racial groups and travelers, where columns (3) and (4) contain state and wave controls and columns (5) and (6) contain state-wave controls. Socio-demographic controls, which are included in all specifications, compile gender, age, education, migration background, household size and frequency of contact with people living abroad. Robust standard errors in parentheses, * $p < 0.1$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$