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Article

Erratum

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## ERRATUM

### JCRE Editorial Office

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*Data Availability:* The R code to reproduce the results of this erratum can be downloaded at JCRE's data archive (DOI: [10.15456/j1.2024314.0652207104](https://doi.org/10.15456/j1.2024314.0652207104)).

In a recent publication of this journal, Joan Barceló published a reply (JCRE, Vol.3, 2024-7) challenging the results of a replication study by Edmund Malesky and Trung-Anh Nguyen (JCRE, Vol.3, 2024-5). At issue is whether US bombing in Vietnam caused greater civic engagement among those Vietnamese who personally experienced bombing.

Barceló (2021, 2023) claims that it did. Malesky and Nguyen (MN) argue that a combination of errors invalidates his conclusion. Barceló's reply in the JCRE pushes back against MN's arguments. Interested readers wanting to know more details may want to read the articles by Barceló and MN in this journal.

It is not the purpose of JCRE to adjudicate differences between researchers. Our goal is merely to provide a platform for researchers to confirm or disconfirm published research. As a result, the practice of JCRE is to publish a replication and allow the original author the opportunity to reply. And then that is it. We do not publish replies to replies and subsequent responses. However, JCRE has become aware that a claim made in Barceló's reply rests on two coding mistakes. When those coding mistakes are corrected, this claim is no longer supported. We underscore that these mistakes do not undermine all of Barceló's claims. The remainder of this erratum explains the coding mistakes and how they impact the debate.

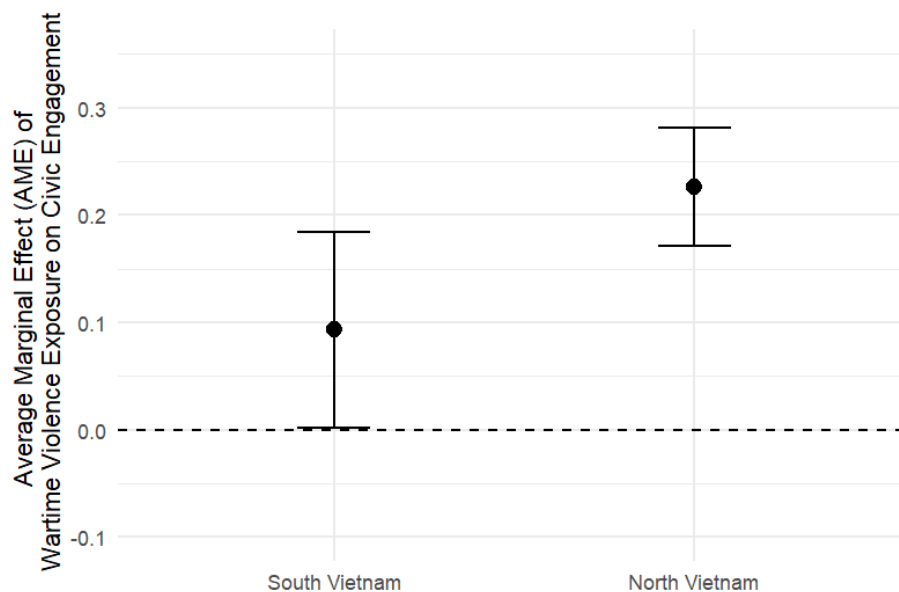
MN show that separating the sample into North and South Vietnamese provinces results in the positive association between bombing and civic engagement losing its statistical significance in the South." Barceló argues that this statistical insignificance is driven by smaller sample size.

Instead, he argues that one should address the North versus South issue by maintaining the full sample and interacting the treatment variable (bombing) with a South dummy variable (see below, excerpted from page 34 of his reply):

"Therefore, the conclusion that wartime exposure has no effect on civic engagement in the South might be misleading—not because there is no effect, but because the reduced efficiency in the split sample analysis prevents a test of this hypothesis in the South using this approach. The most robust method to assess the heterogeneous effects hypothesized by MN is to employ a multiplicative interaction model that combines the samples while distinguishing the effects in the North and South. This approach retains the efficiency of the analysis and provides direct estimates of the regional differences in the impact of wartime exposure on civic engagement. Figure 6 displays the estimated

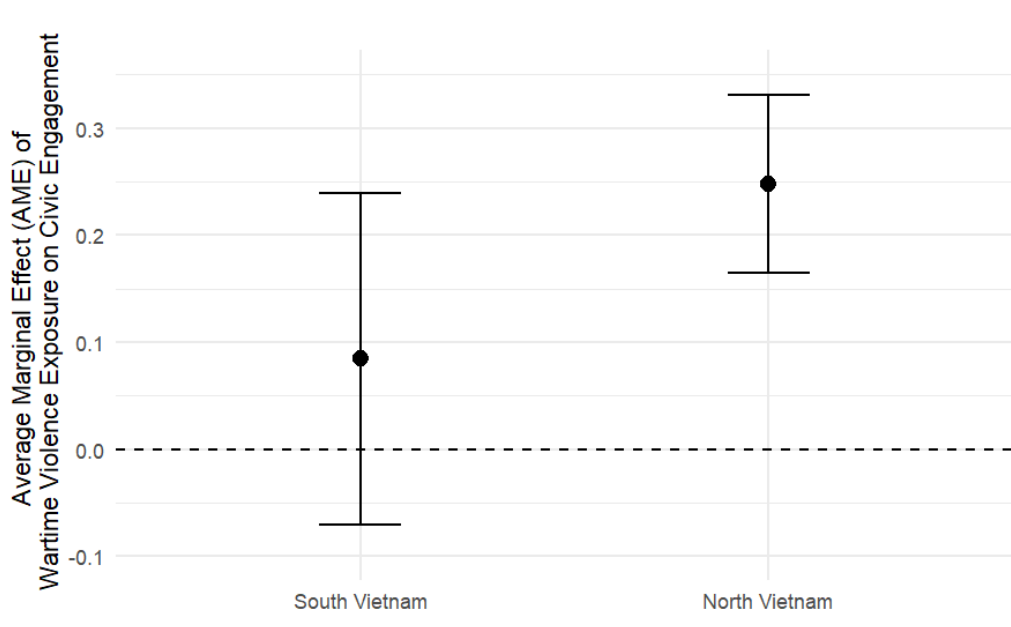
treatment effects of exposure to wartime violence for individuals who lived in South Vietnam and North Vietnam before the war. These findings significantly challenge the results provided by MN as the interaction model reveals that the effect of wartime exposure on civic engagement is positively significant in both regions. More specifically, the average marginal effect (AME) of wartime exposure on civic engagement is 0.23 for North Vietnam ( $p < 0.01$ ) and 0.09 for South Vietnam ( $p < 0.05$ )."

Barceló reports that when an interaction term is estimated, the associated average marginal effect (AME) is positive and statistically significant. He illustrates this in Figure 6 of his reply (see below).



Barceló states that all models in the paper are estimated with province-level heteroskedastic clustered standard errors (see Footnote 8 on page 30). In fact, the standard errors in Figure 6 and the associated AME estimates are not clustered.

When one (i) clusters the standard errors and (ii) corrects a coding mistake that categorizes the provinces Quang Tri and Thua Thien-Hue as part of North Vietnam instead of South, the confidence interval changes to include zero, making the estimated effect of bombing on civic engagement statistically insignificant for South Vietnam (see below).



The associated AMEs are reported in the table below.

#### 1. AMEs from Barcelo 2024

factor	south_wartime	AME	SE	z	p	lower	upper
bombs_per_sqm_log_wartime	0	0.226	0.028	8.080	0	0.171	0.281
bombs_per_sqm_log_wartime	1	0.093	0.047	1.993	0.046	0.002	0.185

#### 2. AMEs from correction with clustering

factor	south_wartime_corr	AME	SE	z	p	lower	upper
bombs_per_sqm_log_wartime	0	0.248	0.042	5.841	0	0.165	0.331
bombs_per_sqm_log_wartime	1	0.084	0.079	1.066	0.286	-0.071	0.239

The AME estimate from bombing in the South falls from 0.093 to 0.084, and the associate p-value increases from 0.046 to 0.286. Thus, correcting Barcelo's coding errors produces a positive, but statistically insignificant estimate of the effect of bombing on civic engagement in the South.

The associated R code that highlights the coding errors and shows the "before" and "after" results from correcting them is available in the file "AME&Figure6.R". Interested readers are encouraged to inspect the code and contact the respective authors if they wish to learn more details.

## References

**Barceló, J. (2021).** “The Long-Term Effects of War Exposure on Civic Engagement.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 118(6): e2015539118. DOI: [10.1073/pnas.2015539118](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2015539118).

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**Malesky, E., & Nguyen, T. A. (2024).** “Historical Communist Party Strength and Modern Party Loyalty: A Response to Joan Barceló’s “The Long-Term Effects of War Exposure on Civic Engagement.” *Journal of Comments and Replications in Economics*, 3(5). DOI: [10.18718/81781.35](https://doi.org/10.18718/81781.35).