Online Supplementary Materials for

**It Could Happen to You: How Perceptions of Personal Risk Shape Support for Social Welfare Policy in the American States**

**Table S1. Individuals’ Actual and Perceived Risk Exposure**

**Perceived Risk Exposure**

(Perceived Financial Insecurity)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Very Secure | Secure | Somewhat Secure | Neither Secure nor Insecure | Somewhat Insecure | Insecure | Very Insecure | **Total** |
| 3.6% | 34  14.22% | 55  23.02% | **66**  **27.61%** | 27  11.30% | 32  13.39% | 19  7.95% | 6  2.51% | **239**  **100%** |
| 3.8% | 28  10.98% | 39  15.29% | **69**  **27.06%** | 28  10.98% | 47  18.43% | 22  8.63% | 22  8.63% | **255**  **100%** |
| **Actual Risk Exposure**  (Unemployment by Gender & Educational Attainment)  5.2% | 4  10.00% | 10  25.00% | **11**  **27.50%** | 7  17.50% | 3  7.50% | 2  5.00% | 3  7.50% | **40**  **100%** |
| 5.5% | 10  10.42% | 10  10.42% | **27**  **28.13%** | 16  16.66% | 8  8.33% | 11  11.46% | 14  14.58% | **96**  **100%** |
| 7% | 25  4.97% | 66  13.12% | **114**  **22.67%** | 92  18.29% | 95  18.89% | 54  10.73% | 57  11.33% | **503**  **100%** |
| 7.9% | 6  7.60% | 7  8.86% | **19**  **24.05%** | 17  21.52% | 16  20.25% | 7  8.86% | 7  8.86% | **79**  **100%** |
| 10% | 1  14.29% | 0  0.00% | 1  14.29% | **2**  **28.57%** | **2**  **28.57%** | 0  0.00% | 1  14.29% | **7**  **100%** |
| 12.6% | 0  0.00% | 1  6.25% | 0  0.00% | 3  18.75% | 2  12.50% | 5  31.25% | **5**  **31.25%** | **16**  **100%** |
| **Total** | **108**  **8.75%** | **188**  **15.22%** | **307**  **24.86%** | **192**  **15.55%** | **205**  **16.60%** | **120**  **9.71%** | **115**  **9.31%** | **1,235**  **100%** |

*Note*: Table contains frequency and percentage of respondents in each category. Bolded values represent the modal response for *Perceived Risk Exposure* for each value of *Actual Risk Exposure*. Respondents were recruited through Survey Sampling International (SSI) in July 2014 to produce a nationally representative sample.

**Table S2a. Individual-Level Support for Increased Welfare Spending (Ordered-Logit)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DV: Welfare Support** | **Ego-Centric Risk Exposure: *Financial Insecurity*** | | **Socio-Tropic Risk Exposure: *Macroeconomic Health*** |
| Perceived Risk Exposure | | -.239\*\* (.089) | -1.276\*\* (.365) |
| Risk Orientation | | -.430\*\* (.092) | -.152\*\* (.048) |
| Perceived Risk Exposure x Risk Orientation | | .078\*\* (.021) | .194\*\* (.087) |
| Actual Risk Exposure | | .097\* (.059) | .111\*\* (.061) |
| Democrat | | .941\*\* (.126) | .858\*\* (.128) |
| Republican | | -.793\*\* (.162) | -.740\*\* (.162) |
| Female | | .065 (.121) | .093 (.122) |
| College Degree | | .306\* (.223) | .312\* (.227) |
| Age | | -.083\*\* (.034) | -.073\*\* (.034) |
| Income | | -.146\*\* (.029) | -.171\*\* (.028) |
| Political Interest | | .277\*\* (.095) | .310\*\* (.096) |
| Region: South | | -.242\* (.152) | -.251\*\* (.152) |
| Region: Midwest | | .119 (.163) | .067 (.165) |
| Region: West | | -.042 (.160) | -.043 (.161) |
| μ1  μ2 | | -1.743 (.639)  .255 (.636) | -1.069 (.569)  .938 (.569) |
| N | | 1,235 | 1,235 |
| Wald Chi2 | | 219.850\*\* | 215.31\*\* |
| Log Likelihood | | -1,209.506 | -1,206.222 |
| AIC/BIC | | 2,451.011 / 2,532.011 | 2,444.444 / 2,526.346 |

*Note*: Cell entries are ordered logit coefficients with robust standard errors in parentheses. \* denotes *p* < .10, \*\* denotes *p* < .05 (one tailed test)

**Table S2b. Individual-Level Support for Increased Welfare Spending (Ordered-Logit) – Revised Model**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DV: Welfare Support** | **Ego-Centric Risk Exposure: *Financial Insecurity*** | | **Socio-Tropic Risk Exposure: *Macroeconomic Health*** | |
| Perceived Risk Exposure | -.013 (.043) | .164\*\* (.047) | -.604\*\* (.157) | -.246\*\* (.163) |
| Risk Aversion | -.649\*\* (.192) | -- | -.119\* (.080) | -- |
| Risk Acceptance | -- | .658\*\* (.148) | -- | .273\*\* (.080) |
| Perceived Risk Exposure x  Risk Aversion | .112\*\* (.038) | -- | .092 (.155) | -- |
| Perceived Risk Exposure x  Risk Acceptance | -- | -.139\*\* (.041) | -- | -.442\*\* (.151) |
| Actual Risk Exposure |  |  |  |  |
| Unemployment by  Education and Gender | .032 (.080) | .045 (.080) | .047 (.082) | .061 (.081) |
| Unemployment by Region | -.030 (.151) | -.004 (.151) | .020 (.151) | .023 (.151) |
| Unemployment by Age | -.008 (.019) | -.001 (.019) | -.008 (.019) | -.002 (.019) |
| Family Member Lost Job? | -.238\* (.184) | -.260\* (.185) | -.170 (.186) | -.165 (.188) |
| Democrat | .951\*\* (.127) | .926\*\* (.128) | .855\*\* (.129) | .851\*\* (.129) |
| Republican | -.785\*\* (.162) | -.821\*\* (.162) | -.727\*\* (.162) | -.769\*\* (.162) |
| Female | .017 (.121) | .024 (.121) | .047 (.121) | .055 (.121) |
| Education | .009 (.108) | .014 (.108) | .008 (.110) | .019 (.110) |
| Age | -.120\*\* (.048) | -.097\*\* (.049) | -.198\*\* (.060) | -.083\*\* (.049) |
| Income | -.146 (.029) | -.135\*\* (.029) | -.189\*\* (.036) | -.161\*\* (.030) |
| Political Interest | .336\*\* (.094) | .276\*\* (.097) | .355\*\* (.095) | .291\*\* (.098) |
| μ1 | -1.228 (1.283) | -.019 (1.305) | -.930 (1.285) | -.531 (1.280) |
| μ2 | .748 (1.279) | 1.975 (1.304) | 1.058 (1.284) | 1.476 (1.279) |
| **N** | 1,235 | 1,235 | 1,235 | 1,235 |
| **Wald Chi2** | 209.560 | 222.32 | 216.450 | 220.760 |
| **Log Likelihood** | -1,218.336 | -1,211.948 | -1,213.220 | -1,206.334 |
| **AIC/**  **BIC** | 2,468.672 2,550.573 | 2,455.895/ 2,537.796 | 2,458.44/ 2,540.341 | 2,444.668/ 2,526.569 |

*Note*: Cell entries are logit coefficients with robust standard errors in parentheses.

\* denotes *p* < .10, \*\* denotes *p* < .05 (one tailed test)

**Table S3. Individual-Level Support for Increased Welfare Spending (Actual Risk Exposure Omitted)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DV: Welfare Support** | **Ego-Centric Risk Exposure: *Financial Insecurity*** | **Socio-Tropic Risk Exposure: *Macroeconomic Health*** |
| Perceived Risk Exposure | -.267\*\* (.098) | -1.358\*\* (.443) |
| Risk Orientation | -.583\*\* (.127) | -.242\*\* (.063) |
| Perceived Risk Exposure x Risk Orientation | .096\*\* (.026) | .303\*\* (.111) |
| Actual Risk Exposure | -- | -- |
| Democrat | .912\*\* (.157) | .856\*\* (.161) |
| Republican | -.471\*\* (.221) | -.461\*\* (.221) |
| Female | -.079 (.153) | -.073 (.153) |
| College Degree | .055 (.153) | .048 (.153) |
| Age | -.112\*\* (.044) | -.108\*\* (.044) |
| Income | -.173\*\* (.037) | -.202\*\* (.306) |
| Political Interest | .615\*\* (.130) | .635\*\* (.132) |
| Region: South | -.269\* (.191) | -.230\* (.190) |
| Region: Midwest | .187 (.202) | .156 (.202) |
| Region: West | -.162 (.207) | -.181 (.209) |
| Constant | .295 (.563) | -.347 (.460) |
| N | 1,235 | 1,235 |
| Wald Chi2 | 151.840\*\* | 215.31\*\* |
| Log Likelihood | -613.497 | -1,206.222 |
| AIC/BIC | 1,254.994 / 1,326.658 | 1,261.387 / 1,333.051 |

*Note*: Cell entries are logit coefficients with robust standard errors in parentheses.

* denotes *p* < .10, \*\* denotes *p* < .05 (one tailed test)

**Table S4. Individual-Level Support for Increased Welfare Spending (Unemployment by Region Omitted; Regional Dummy Variables Included)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DV: Welfare Support** | **Ego-Centric Risk Exposure: *Financial Insecurity*** | | **Socio-Tropic Risk Exposure: *Macroeconomic Health*** | |
| Perceived Risk Exposure | -.024 (.051) | .205\*\* (.065) | -.417\*\* (.204) | .148 (.225) |
| Risk Aversion | -.697\*\* (.288) | -- | -.171\* (.114) | -- |
| Risk Acceptance | -- | .834\*\* (.177) | -- | .423\*\* (.093) |
| Perceived Risk Exposure x  Risk Aversion | .122\*\* (.055) | -- | .283\* (.205) | -- |
| Perceived Risk Exposure x  Risk Acceptance | -- | -.138\*\* (.045) | -- | -.490\*\* (.178) |
| Actual Risk Exposure |  |  |  |  |
| Unemployment by  Education and Gender | -.088 (.116) | -.075 (.115) | -.080 (.119) | -.058 (.117) |
| Unemployment by Region | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Unemployment by Age | -.033\* (.023) | -.025 (.023) | -.032\* (.023) | -.025 (.023) |
| Family Member Lost Job? | -.182 (.219) | -.222 (.226) | -.146 (.221) | -.163 (.229) |
| Democrat | .926\*\* (.156) | .919\*\* (.158) | .867\*\* (.160) | .868\*\* (.162) |
| Republican | -.451\*\* (.222) | -.493\*\* (.224) | -.435\*\* (.222) | -.487\*\* (.224) |
| Female | -.131 (.152) | -.084 (.154) | -.121 (.151) | .075 (.154) |
| Education | -.136 (.152) | -.137 (.152) | -.135 (.155) | -.121 (.154) |
| Age | -.206\*\* (.060) | -.159\*\* (.062) | -.198\*\* (.060) | -.147\*\* (.061) |
| Income | -.176\*\* (.037) | -.160\*\* (.038) | -.189\*\* (.036) | -.189\*\* (.037) |
| Political Interest | .729\*\* (.129) | .613\*\* (.131) | .736\*\* (.130) | .613\*\* (.134) |
| Region: South | -.308\* (.188) | -.269\* (.193) | -.310\*\* (.188) | -.314\*\* (.191) |
| Region: Midwest | .101 (.199) | .179 (.202) | .089 (.200) | .136 (.202) |
| Region: West | -.224 (.207) | -.143 (.210) | -.209 (.209) | -.184 (.211) |
| Constant | .288 (1.323) | -1.193 (1.358) | .267 (1.342) | -.381 (1.347) |
| **N** | 1,235 | 1,235 | 1,235 | 1,235 |
| **Wald Chi2** | 135.940 | 158.800 | 139.230 | 157.420 |
| **Log Likelihood** | -621.843 | -609.770 | -622.148 | -611.844 |
| **AIC/**  **BIC** | 1,277.686/ 1,364.706 | 1,253.54/ 1,340.56 | 1278.295/ 1365.315 | 1257.689/ 1344.709 |

*Note*: Cell entries are logit coefficients with robust standard errors in parentheses.

\* denotes *p* < .10, \*\* denotes *p* < .05 (one tailed test)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Table S5. Correlations**  *Correlation Coefficients* | DV: Welfare Support | IV: Perceived Risk Exposure: *Ego-centric* | IV: Perceived Risk Exposure: *Socio-tropic* | IV: Risk Aversion | IV: Risk Acceptance |
| Perceived Risk Exposure:  *Ego-centric* | -.01 | -- | .23 | .28 | -.34 |
| Perceived Risk Exposure:  *Socio-tropic* | -.11 | .23 | -- | .12 | -.09 |
| Risk Aversion | -.07 | .28 | .12 | -- | -.62 |
| Risk Acceptance | .15 | -.34 | -.09 | -.62 | -- |
| Unemployment by  Education/Gender | .05 | .20 | .04 | .04 | -.12 |
| Unemployment by Age | .09 | .01 | -.10 | -.12 | .12 |
| Unemployment by Region | -.02 | .01 | .04 | -.04 | .04 |
| Family Lost Job? | .01 | .07 | .07 | -.03 | .07 |
| Income | -.16 | -.31 | -.03 | -.06 | .10 |
| Education | -.05 | -.20 | -.05 | -.03 | .12 |
| Age | -.10 | .03 | .12 | .14 | -.15 |
| Democrat | .25 | -.06 | -.22 | -.06 | .08 |
| Republican | -.16 | -.03 | .19 | .09 | -.04 |
| Political Interest | .15 | -.18 | .02 | -.11 | .25 |
| Female | -.01 | .14 | .02 | .11 | -.14 |

**Table S6. Individual-Level Support for Increased Welfare Spending (Income x Perceived Risk Exposure Included)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DV: Welfare Support** | **Ego-Centric Risk Exposure: *Financial Insecurity*** | | **Socio-Tropic Risk Exposure: *Macroeconomic Health*** | |
| Perceived Risk Exposure | .187\*\* (.099) | .376\*\* (.102) | .054 (.395) | .502 (.404) |
| Risk Aversion | -.596\*\* (.277) | -- | -.149\* (.116) | -- |
| Risk Acceptance | -- | .782\*\* (.177) | -- | .405\*\* (.092) |
| Perceived Risk Exposure x  Risk Aversion | .099\*\* (.053) | -- | .252\* (.202) | -- |
| Perceived Risk Exposure x  Risk Acceptance | -- | -.126\*\* (.046) | -- | -.453\*\* (.181) |
| Income | **.005 (.080)** | **.007 (.081)** | **-.158\*\* (.039)** | **-.160\*\* (.040)** |
| Perceived Risk Exposure x  Income | **-.046\*\* (.020)** | **-.041\*\* (.019)** | **-.107\* (.079)** | **-.092 (.078)** |
| Actual Risk Exposure |  |  |  |  |
| Unemployment by  Education and Gender | -.090 (.112) | -.081 (.112) | -.074 (.117) | -.054 (.116) |
| Unemployment by Region | -.176 (.202) | -.161 (.205) | -.150 (.202) | -.155 (.205) |
| Unemployment by Age | -.030\* (.022) | -.023 (.023) | -.030\* (.023) | -.023 (.023) |
| Family Member Lost Job? | -.137 (.220) | -.191 (.226) | -.147 (.219) | -.167 (.227) |
| Democrat | .930\*\* (.156) | .923\*\* (.158) | .859\*\* (.159) | .859\*\* (.162) |
| Republican | -.445\*\* (.222) | -.481\*\* (.223) | -.425\*\* (.222) | -.475\*\* (.223) |
| Female | -.161 (.152) | -.117 (.155) | -.153 (.152) | -.107 (.154) |
| Education | -.160 (.149) | -.162 (.150) | -.134 (.153) | -.122 (.153) |
| Age | -.209\*\* (.060) | -.164\* (.061) | -.198\*\* (.060) | -.148 (.061) |
| Political Interest | .721\*\* (.128) | .609\*\* (.129) | .727\*\* (.129) | .605\*\* (.133) |
| Constant | .468 (1.752) | -.864 (1.801) | .893 (1.738) | .352 (1.748) |
| **N** | 1,235 | 1,235 | 1,235 | 1,235 |
| **Wald Chi2** | 136.760 | 160.410 | 133.550 | 152.160 |
| **Log Likelihood** | -621.381 | -609.917 | -623.501 | -613.836 |
| **AIC/**  **BIC** | 1,274.762/ 1,356.663 | 1,251.834/ 1,333.735 | 1,279.001/ 1,360.902 | 1,259.671/ 1,341.572 |

*Note*: Cell entries are logit coefficients with robust standard errors in parentheses.

\* denotes *p* < .10, \*\* denotes *p* < .05 (one tailed test)

 

**Risk Aversion** Model **Risk Acceptance** Model

**Figure S1. Marginal Effect of Perceived Risk Exposure (Ego-centric) on Welfare Support**

 

**Risk Aversion** Model **Risk Acceptance** Model

**Figure S2. Marginal Effect of Perceived Risk Exposure (Socio-tropic) on Welfare Support**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Table S7. Income Interacted**  **DV: Welfare Support** | **Ego-Centric Risk Exposure: *Financial Insecurity*** | | **Socio-Tropic Risk Exposure: *Macroeconomic Health*** | |
| Perceived Risk Exposure | -.018 (.051) | .195\*\* (.065) | -.438\*\* (.205) | .114 (.225) |
| Risk Aversion | -.672\*\* (.289) | -- | -.187\*\* (.115) | -- |
| Risk Acceptance | -- | .798\*\* (.181) | -- | .415\*\* (.093) |
| Perceived Risk Exposure x  Risk Aversion | .114\*\* (.055) | -- | .297\* (.206) | -- |
| Perceived Risk Exposure x  Risk Acceptance | -- | -.129\*\* (.046) | -- | -.478\*\* (.181) |
| Income | 1.431\*\* (.732) | 1.258\*\* (.744) | 1.496\*\* (.734) | 1.332\*\* (.738) |
| Actual Risk Exposure |  |  |  |  |
| Unemployment by  Education and Gender  Unemployment by  Education and Gender x  Income | **.135 (.203)**  **-.066\* (.046)** | **.114 (.204)**  **-.057 (.047)** | **.169 (.209)**  **-.072\* (.046)** | **.142 (.209)**  **-.060\* (.047)** |
| Unemployment by Region  Unemployment by Region x  Income | **.793\*\* (.473) -.203\*\* (.090)** | **.730\* (.473)**  **-.187\*\* (.091)** | **.827\*\* (.479)**  **-.206\*\* (.091)** | **.793\*\* (.479)**  **-.200\*\* (.091)** |
| Unemployment by Age  Unemployment by Age x  Income | **-.112\*\* (.037)**  **.019\*\* (.007)** | **-.106\*\* (.037)**  **.019\*\* (.007)** | **-.112\*\* (.037)**  **.019\*\* (.007)** | **-.110\*\* (.038)**  **.020\*\* (.007)** |
| Family Member Lost Job? | **-.117 (.491)** | **-.203 (.509)** | **-.106 (.501)** | **-.219 (.532)** |
| Family Member Lost Job? x  Income | **.012 (.096)** | **-.003 (.099)** | **-.007 (.097)** | **.013 (.102)** |
| Democrat  Democrat x Income | **.504\* (.354)**  **.090\* (.069)** | **.483\* (.354)**  **.093\* (.070)** | **.435 (.358)**  **.092\* (.070)** | **.426 (.360)**  **.094 (.071)** |
| Republican  Republican x Income | **-.131 (.506)**  **-.068 (.095)** | **-.240 (.521)**  **-.053 (.097)** | **-.071 (.509)**  **-.077 (.096)** | **-.147 (.522)**  **-.071 (.097)** |
| Female | -.137 (.153) | -.098 (.156) | -.127 (.153) | -.090 (.156) |
| Education  Education x Income | -.019 (.291)  -.041 (.060) | -.050 (.292)  -.033 (.061) | .016 (.301)  .049 (.061) | -.016 (.302)  -.037 (.062) |
| Age | .202\*\* (.061) | -.156\*\* (.063) | -.192\*\* (.061) | -.146\*\* (.062) |
| Political Interest | .723\*\* (.127) | .612\*\* (.129) | .727\*\* (.128) | .611\*\* (.131) |
| Constant | -5.732\* (3.597) | -6.364\*\* (3.606) | -6.200\*\* (3.612) | -6.098\*\* (3.603) |
| **N** | 1,235 | 1,235 | 1,235 | 1,235 |
| **Wald Chi2** | 145.000 | 164.480 | 144.820 | 162.250 |
| **Log Likelihood** | -615.266 | -604.153 | -615.042 | -605.469 |
| **AIC/**  **BIC** | 1,274.532/ 1,387.146 | 1,252.305/ 1,364.920 | 1,274.084/ 1,386.699 | 1,254.937/ 1,367.551 |
|  |  |  |  |  |

*Note*: Cell entries are logit coefficients with robust standard errors in parentheses.

\* denotes *p* < .10, \*\* denotes *p* < .05 (one tailed test)

 

**Figure S3. Marginal Effect of Perceived Ego-Centric Risk Exposure on Welfare Support by Risk Orientation**

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**Figure S4. Marginal Effect of Perceived Socio-Tropic Risk Exposure on Welfare Support by Risk Orientation**