

Framing Effects and Group Differences in Public
Opinion about Prison Pell Grants
Appendix

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Table 1: Experimental Results

	Condition	Mean	95% CI	N
Full Sample	Control	0.521	[0.489, 0.553]	462
	Individuals	0.602***	[0.572, 0.632]	468
	Society	0.596***	[0.566, 0.626]	461
<i>Partisanship</i>				
Democrat	Control	0.629	[0.586, 0.672]	277
	Individuals	0.739***	[0.703, 0.776]	208
	Society	0.715**	[0.677, 0.752]	219
Independent	Control	0.458	[0.381, 0.534]	71
	Individuals	0.587*	[0.521, 0.652]	78
	Society	0.525	[0.459, 0.591]	89
Republican	Control	0.399	[0.349, 0.450]	164
	Individuals	0.452	[0.404, 0.500]	182
	Society	0.467 [†]	[0.414, 0.521]	153
<i>Racial Resentment</i>				
Low	Control	0.668	[0.603, 0.734]	98
	Individuals	0.766*	[0.725, 0.807]	124
	Society	0.746 [†]	[0.694, 0.798]	125
Moderate	Control	0.461	[0.402, 0.519]	133
	Individuals	0.542 [†]	[0.482, 0.601]	120
	Society	0.545*	[0.491, 0.599]	122
High	Control	0.347	[0.277, 0.417]	80
	Individuals	0.424	[0.347, 0.500]	82
	Society	0.434	[0.362, 0.505]	87
<i>Student Loan Status</i>				
No Student Loans	Control	0.491	[0.446, 0.536]	247
	Individuals	0.593***	[0.551, 0.635]	255
	Society	0.568*	[0.529, 0.608]	278
Student Loans	Control	0.531	[0.448, 0.614]	64
	Individuals	0.607	[0.534, 0.680]	70
	Society	0.719**	[0.642, 0.797]	57

[†] significant from Control at $p < .10$; * $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$; *** $p < .001$
Corrected for multiple comparisons (Benjamini and Hochberg 1995).

Figure 1: Pell Support by Treatment Condition

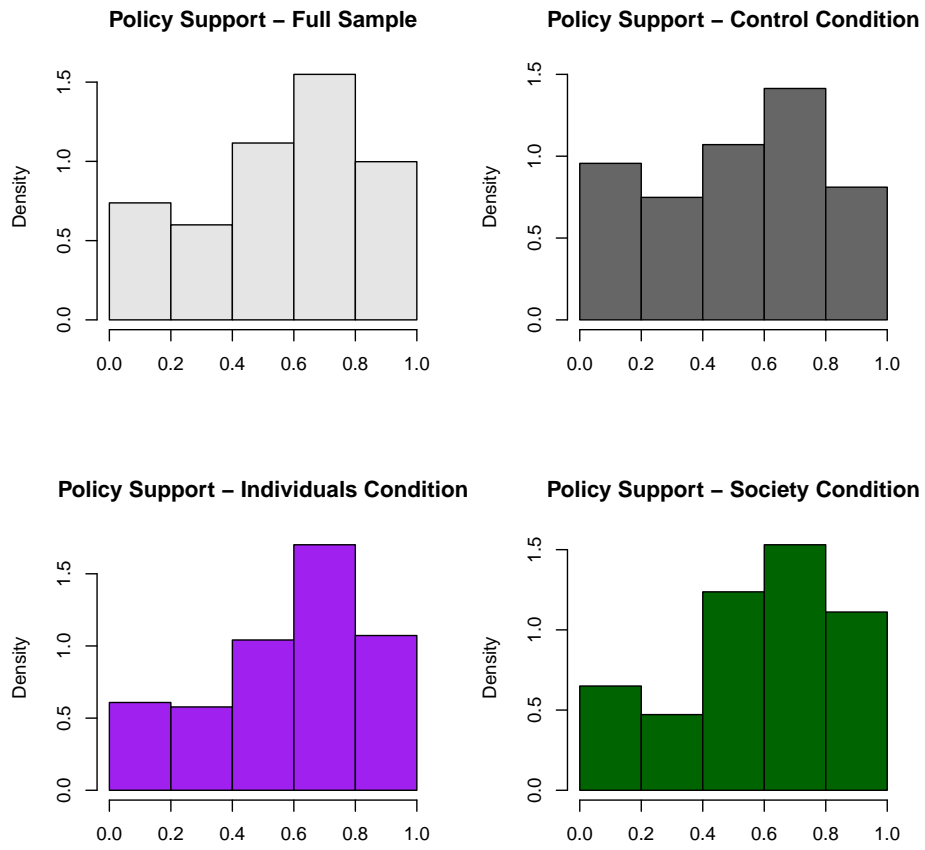
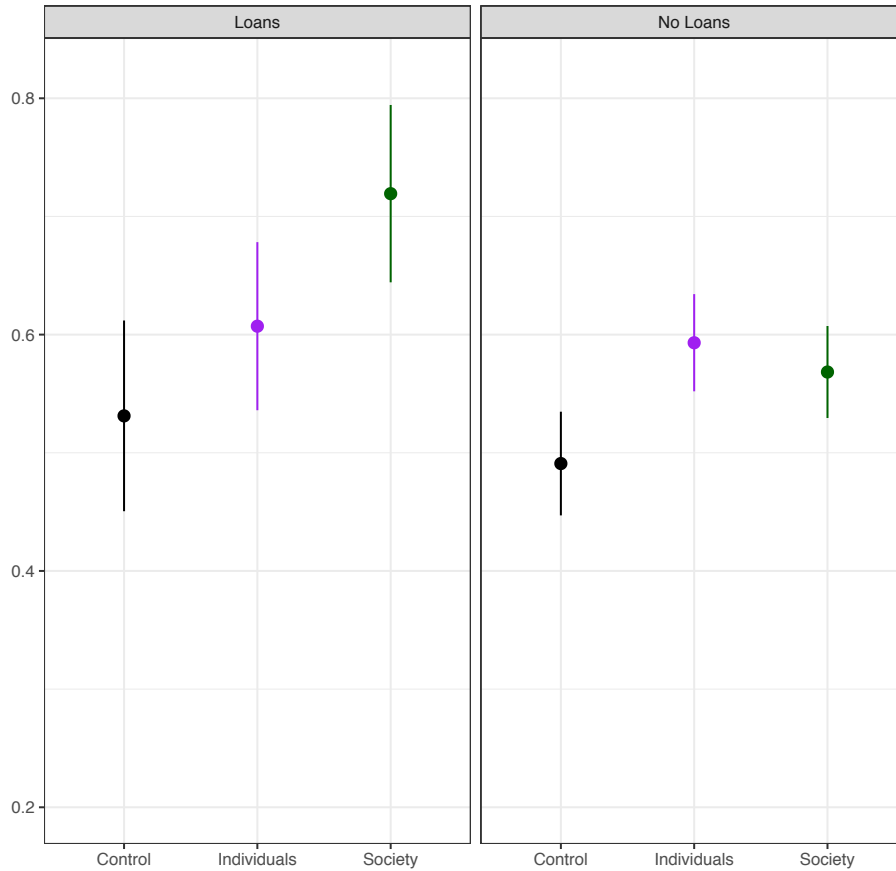


Figure 2: Experimental Results — Student Loan Analysis



Points indicate the mean level of support for Pell eligibility, by treatment condition and student loan status. Bars are 95% confidence intervals.

To test for least eligibility attitudes among the public, Appendix Figure 2 analyzes whether support for Pell reform differed between respondents who are paying off student loan debt or not. Our results offer mixed evidence regarding least eligibility resentment. We hypothesized that respondents who have their own student loans to pay off would be more opposed to extending taxpayer-funded grants to “undeserving” people who have committed crimes. However, we found that respondents with student loans expressed slightly stronger support for financial aid for prisoners than respondents without student loans, though this between-group difference was not statistically significant. That said, how these groups responded to the specific frame supports the notion that those with debt are mobilized by different arguments. Exposure to the society frame significantly increased support for the proposal among both groups of respondents, but exposure to the individuals frame only significantly increased support among respondents without student loans. To the extent that support among those with student debt can be increased, the experiment suggests that advocates should promote the policy’s societal benefits rather than the individual-level rewards to inmates.