

COVID-19 Direct Relief Payments and Political and Economic Attitudes among Tertiary Students: A Quasi-experimental Study

Appendix

Table A1. Means Comparison (Excluding Respondents Born Before 2002)

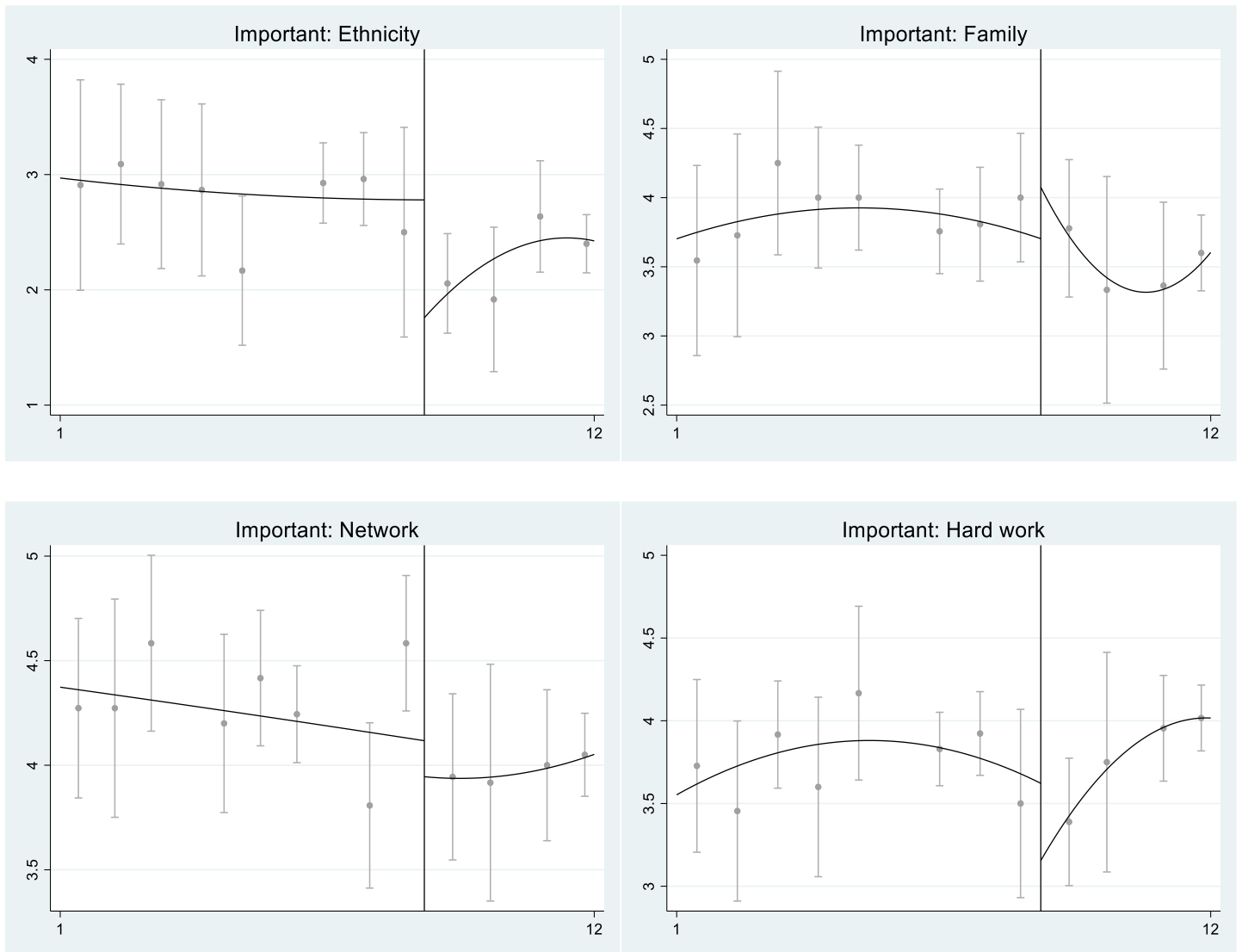
Excluding Respondents Born Prior to 2002	(i) The Effect of Government Benefits (Group A+B vs. Group C)			(ii) The Effect of Cash Handouts and Vouchers (Group A vs. Group C)		
	Mean (A+B)	Mean (C)	Diff. (2-tailed t-test)	Mean (A)	Mean (C)	Diff. (2-tailed t-test)
Economic satisfaction	5.42	5.45	0.03	5.43	5.45	0.02
Family economic satisfaction	5.51	5.59	0.08	5.56	5.59	0.03
Fam. future econ. satisfaction	5.74	5.48	-0.26	5.70	5.48	-0.22
Government satisfaction	3.17	3.19	0.02	3.20	3.19	-0.01
Democratic support	3.19	3.26	0.07	3.18	3.26	0.08
Important: hard work	3.75	3.99	0.24**	3.79	3.99	0.20*
Important: education	4.22	4.24	0.02	4.21	4.24	0.03
Important: family	3.87	3.58	-0.30**	3.92	3.58	-0.35**
Important: network	4.20	4.07	-0.12	4.24	4.07	-0.17*
<u>Meritocratic - Non-meritocratic</u>	4.96	5.29	0.34***	4.92	5.29	0.37***
Important: ambition	3.52	3.64	0.11	3.55	3.64	0.08
Important: ethnicity	2.67	2.47	-0.20	2.79	2.47	-0.32**
Important: religion	1.90	2.06	0.16	1.95	2.06	0.11
Important: gender	2.49	2.39	-0.10	2.55	2.39	-0.16

*** $p < 0.01$; ** $p < 0.05$; * $p < 0.1$. N=321.

Regression Discontinuity Design

The main results presented in the article utilizes simple means comparison. A common approach to this type of design is a regression discontinuity design, focusing on whether a step-wise difference can be identified across the threshold. However, the small sample size (in addition to the collection of birth period instead of the exact date of birth) makes the regression discontinuity approach less feasible here. Regardless, we demonstrated the plots in Figure A1 below. Perhaps due to the small sample size, while a jump across the threshold can be found for ethnicity and network, the pattern is not clear for family. As for hard work, it is found that the positive jump actually occurs at the second threshold (i.e., the difference between getting the voucher vs. getting nothing). Again, these results should be treated as tentative given the limitations discussed.

Figure A1. Regression Discontinuity Plots



Horizontal axis represents the birth period in sequence. The vertical line depicts the cut-off for the cash benefit. Plotted with the *rdplot* package in STATA.

Sources to Table 1

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