

Supplementary Information for “The Cult of the Relevant:
International Relations Scholars and Policy Engagement Beyond the
Ivory Tower”

August 2022

Comparison of our respondents to the population

We attempted to contact all IR scholars working at colleges or universities in the United States. We began with the list of colleges and universities tracked by U.S. News and World Report. Teams of research assistants visited the website of each institution and collected contact information for all individuals with primary appointments in political science, government, international affairs, social science, or public policy departments, programs, or schools who teaches or publishes research issues that cross international borders. Of the 5,251 scholars across the U.S. that we successfully contacted, 971 responded to at least one question. The resulting response rate is approximately 18.5 percent. We have data on the following publicly observable characteristics of both the population of IR scholars in the United States and the subset of IR scholars who responded to our survey: gender, rank, university type, and whether or not they have published in the Monkey Cage since it moved to the Washington Post in 2013.

The distribution of these variables is given in the table below. While the our respondents were statistically significantly more likely to be male, tenured, and to have published in the Monkey Cage, the magnitudes of these differences were generally small in absolute terms.

Table A1: Distribution of gender among population and respondents.

Gender	Population		Respondents	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Female	1,633	31.1%	261	26.9%
Male	3,617	68.9%	710	73.1%
Non-binary	1	0.0%	NA	NA
Total	5,251	100.0%	971	100.0%

$$X^2 (2) = 6.91, p = 0.032.$$

Table A2: Distribution of academic rank among population and respondents.

Rank	Population		Respondents	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Full Professor	1,727	32.9%	407	41.9%
Associate Professor	1,386	26.4%	314	32.3%
Assistant Professor	905	17.2%	131	13.5%
Instructor, Lecturer, Adjunct, Visiting, or Other	1,233	23.5%	119	12.3%
Total	5,251	100.0%	971	100.0%

$$X^2 (4) = 84.48, p < .0001.$$

Table A3: Distribution of U.S News institution type among population and respondents.

Inst. type	Population		Respondents	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
National Liberal Arts College	729	13.9%	139	14.3%
National Research University	3,052	58.1%	586	60.4%
Regional Liberal Arts College	178	3.4%	39	4.0%
Regional Research University	1,216	23.2%	200	20.6%
Other	76	1.4%	7	0.7%
Total	5,251	100.0%	971	100.0%

$X^2 (5)=7.33, p = 0.197.$

Table A4: Distribution of Monkey Cage publication status among population and respondents.

Monkey cage publication?	Population		Respondents	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
No	4,608	87.8%	770	79.3%
Yes	643	12.2%	201	20.7%
Total	5,251	100.0%	971	100.0%

$X^2 (2)=49.96, p < .001.$

Weighting the sample

We use post-stratification weights to bring the distribution of gender, rank, and Monkey Cage activity among our respondents in line with that of the population. We use the “anesrake” package Pasek and Pasek (2018) which implements the weighting algorithm outlined by DeBell and Krosnick (2009) which has been used to generate weights for the American National Election Studies.

Table A5: Distribution of gender before and after weighting

Gender	Population	Unweighted %	Wtd %
Male	68.9%	73.12%	68.9%
Female	31.1%	26.88%	31.1%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Table A6: Distribution of Monkey Cage activity before and after weighting

MC	Population	Unweighted %	Wtd %
No	87.75%	79.3%	87.75%
Yes	12.25%	20.7%	12.25%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Table A7: Distribution of academic rank before and after weighting

Rank	Population	Unweighted %	Wtd %
Full Professor	32.89%	41.92%	32.89%
Associate Professor	26.39%	32.34%	26.39%
Assistant Professor	17.23%	13.49%	17.23%
Instructor, Lecturer, Adjunct, Visiting, or Other	23.48%	12.26%	23.48%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Table A8: Distribution of academic rank before and after weighting

Institution Type	Population	Unweighted %	Wtd %
National Liberal Arts College	13.88%	14.32%	13.88%
National Research University	58.12%	60.35%	58.12%
Regional Liberal Arts College	3.39%	4.02%	3.39%
Regional Research University	23.16%	20.6%	23.16%
Other	1.45%	0.72%	1.45%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Comparison of analyses with weighted and unweighted data.

Here we reproduce the analyses included in the manuscript along with versions using the weighted data. The conclusions we draw do not depend on whether we weight the data or not. For this first table, we also report the sub-samples based on whether or not the respondent had previously published in the Monkey Cage.

Manuscript Table 2

Table A9: Which of the following types of policy organizations have you worked with/for?

Response option	Unweighted	Weighted	MC authors only
U.S. government (including military service)	37.1%	38.5%	38.7%
None	30%	29.3%	25.3%
NGO	23.7%	24.5%	22.7%
Think tank	23.3%	22.7%	32.5%
International organization	13.2%	12.8%	16.5%
Private sector	12.7%	12.4%	14.4%
Foreign government (including military service)	9%	9.1%	8.2%
Interest group	7.5%	7.7%	7.2%
N	926	925	194

Results discussed in the text

From the manuscript: “For many academics, their engagement spanned organizational types: roughly a third (32.2%) reported engaging with multiple organizational types...”

Table A10:

Percent
32.2

From the manuscript: “...and about 14 percent worked for or with three or more different organizational types...”

Table A11:

Percent
13.6

From the manuscript: “Nearly half (47.7%) of survey respondents had worked in the policy world before entering academia. And these positions were not just of the short-term summer internship variety: 37.7% of this group had held positions for six months or more.”

Table A12:

Response option	N	Percent
I did not work in the policy world prior to beginning my academic career.	492	52.3%
I worked in the policy world for less than six months.	94	10.0%
I worked in the policy world for six months or more.	354	37.7%

From the manuscript: “When asked how frequently they engaged in these activities over the past five years, a majority (58.3%) indicated they engaged in these activities at least several times a year; 15.7% responded that they engaged monthly.”

Table A13:

Response option	N	Percent
Monthly	136	15.7%
Never	80	9.2%
Once every few years	281	32.5%
Several times a year	368	42.5%

From the manuscript:

“When IR scholars engage, what types of activities do they engage in? As we expected (H1), the most frequent modalities of engagement were those that provide opportunities for credit-claiming/enhancing scholar name recognition and that require relatively small investments of time: media appearances or interviews (68.7%) and op-ed/blog writing (63.0%). . . . “Deeper” engagement modalities, such as holding a full-time position in a government agency, multilateral organization, advocacy organization, think tank, or interning for some, were much less frequent (19.0% and 11.6%, respectively). . . . Nevertheless, sizable minorities (48.8% and 40.5% respectively) reported that they engage in consulting activities not for attribution/publication and writing policy briefs for government agencies, advocacy organizations, or think tanks. ”

Table A14: In which of the following types of policy-related activities have you participated in your professional capacity as a scholar? Check all that apply.

Response option	Count	Percentage
Consulting activities not resulting in published materials and/or attribution	460	48.9%
Holding a full-time position in a government agency/multilateral organization/advocacy organization/or think tank	179	19.0%
Interning in a government agency/multilateral organization/advocacy organization/or think tank	109	11.6%
Media appearances (interviews)	646	68.7%
Organizing and/or participating in direct action (e.g./speaking at demonstrations/writing or signing open letters or petitions)	317	33.7%
Writing op-eds/blog posts	592	62.9%
Writing policy briefs for a government agency/advocacy organization/or think tank	381	40.5%
Other	82	8.7%
None of these	64	6.8%

From the manuscript: “In total, 70% of respondents believe that policy engagement enhances the quality of their teaching and research.”

Table A15:

Response option	N	Percent
Agree	624	70.4%
No opinion or disagree	262	29.6%

Manuscript Table 3

Table A16: [Unweighted] Frequency of Engagement by Junior Scholars, R1 vs. Other Institutional Types.

Tenure status	Non-R1	R1
Tenured	47.3%	67.9%
Untenured	47.3%	57.7%

Table A17: [Weighted] Frequency of Engagement by Junior Scholars, R1 vs. Other Institutional Types.

Tenure status	Non-R1	R1
Tenured	48.2%	66%
Untenured	48.9%	57.7%

From the manuscript: “Seniority appears to result in more frequent engagement in a roughly linear fashion. Seventy-four percent (74%) of chaired professors reported engaging either monthly or several times a year in the previous five years, with full professors (59%), associate professors (57%), and assistant professors (52%) engaging less frequently. Assistant professors engage the least frequently of those on the tenure track, but the majority still choose to do so at least several times a year.”

Table A18:

Rank	Less than monthly	Monthly or several times a year
Assistant Professor	48.5% (48)	51.5% (51)
Associate Professor	43.1% (110)	56.9% (145)
Chaired Professor	26.3% (25)	73.7% (70)
Full Professor	40.6% (104)	59.4% (152)

From the manuscript: “Female IR scholars engage at least several times a year at higher rates (63.4%) than their male counterparts (56.5%). . . .”

Table A19:

Gender	Less than monthly	Monthly or several times a year
Male	43.5% (279)	56.5% (362)
Female	36.6% (82)	63.4% (142)

From the manuscript: "...although male scholars engage monthly at slightly higher rates (16.4% vs. 13.8%)."

Table A20:

Rank	Monthly	Never	Once every few years	Several times a year
Male	16.4% (105)	10.0% (64)	33.5% (215)	40.1% (257)
Female	13.8% (31)	7.1% (16)	29.5% (66)	49.6% (111)

From the manuscript: "The gap in monthly engagement may be partially attributable to the gender gap in chaired professors; chaired professors accounted for 12.6% of male respondents but only 8.9% of female respondents..."

Table A21:

Gender	Adjunct/Visiting	Assistant	Associate	Chaired	Full	Instructor	Other
Male	3.1% (19)	11.5% (71)	31.1% (193)	12.6% (78)	33.4% (207)	2.1% (13)	6.3% (39)
Female	1.8% (4)	15.6% (35)	38.8% (87)	8.9% (20)	26.8% (60)	3.1% (7)	4.9% (11)

From the manuscript: "...and the gender gap in chaired professorships (79.6% male vs. 20.4% female) is larger than for any other academic rank."

Table A22:

Gender	Adjunct/Visiting	Assistant	Associate	Chaired	Full	Instructor	Other
Male	82.6% (19)	67.0% (71)	68.9% (193)	79.6% (78)	77.5% (207)	65.0% (13)	78.0% (39)
Female	17.4% (4)	33.0% (35)	31.1% (87)	20.4% (20)	22.5% (60)	35.0% (7)	22.0% (11)

From the manuscript: "However, the difference between male and female rates of engagement was not statistically significant, either across ranks (Pearson $\chi^2(3)=2.51$, $Pr = 0.455$)..."

```
##
## Pearson's Chi-squared test
##
## data:  test
## X-squared = 2.6101, df = 3, p-value = 0.4557
```

From the manuscript: "...or at the junior/untenured level (Pearson $\chi^2(1)=.354$, $Pr=0.552$)"

```
##
## Pearson's Chi-squared test with Yates' continuity correction
##
## data:  test
## X-squared = 0.35367, df = 1, p-value = 0.552
```

Manuscript Table 4

Table A23: In the past five years, how frequently have you engaged in the policy-related activities that you identified above?

Engagement freq.	All scholars		International/Global Security	
	Quantitative	Qualitative	Quantitative	Qualitative
Monthly	12.6%	15.4%	7.5%	17.6%
Several times a year	44.2%	44%	47.2%	39.6%
Once every few years	35.4%	32.8%	41.5%	37.4%
Never	7.8%	7.8%	3.8%	5.5%
N	206	357	53	91

Table A24: [Weighted] In the past five years, how frequently have you engaged in the policy-related activities that you identified above?

Engagement freq.	All scholars		International/Global Security	
	Quantitative	Qualitative	Quantitative	Qualitative
Monthly	11.9%	16.4%	8.3%	20.7%
Several times a year	40.3%	42.7%	43.7%	34.6%
Once every few years	38.8%	32.9%	44.7%	39.1%
Never	9%	8%	3.3%	5.7%
N	190	342.8	49.8	83.7

Manuscript Table 5

Table A25: [Unweighted] Policy engagement should be a standard part of academic employment, like research, teaching, and service.

Engagement freq.	All scholars		International/Global Security	
	Quantitative	Qualitative	Quantitative	Qualitative
Agree	33.5%	38.9%	33.9%	40.4%
Disagree	37.8%	27.4%	44.6%	26.6%
Neither	28.7%	33.7%	21.4%	33%
N	209	365	56	94

Table A26: [Weighted] Policy engagement should be a standard part of academic employment, like research, teaching, and service.

Engagement freq.	All scholars		International/Global Security	
	Quantitative	Qualitative	Quantitative	Qualitative
Agree	34%	42.1%	35%	46.8%
Disagree	37.1%	26.3%	45.8%	21.5%
Neither	28.9%	31.6%	19.1%	31.7%
N	195.5	350	51.8	86.5

Manuscript Table 6

Table A27: [Unweighted] My university should value policy engagement in the tenure and promotion process.

Engagement freq.	All scholars		International/Global Security	
	Quantitative	Qualitative	Quantitative	Qualitative
Agree	55%	66.1%	57.1%	63.8%
Disagree	22%	12.9%	30.4%	12.8%
Neither	23%	20.9%	12.5%	23.4%
N	209	363	56	94

Table A28: [Weighted] My university should value policy engagement in the tenure and promotion process.

Engagement freq.	All scholars		International/Global Security	
	Quantitative	Qualitative	Quantitative	Qualitative
Agree	57%	67.8%	57.1%	68.9%
Disagree	20.4%	11.7%	32%	9.1%
Neither	22.6%	20.5%	10.9%	22%
N	195.5	348.5	51.8	86.5

From the manuscript: “Only 31% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed their university currently values policy engagement in the tenure and promotion process, with 44 percent disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.”

Table A29:

Response option	N	Percent
Agree or strongly agree	275	31.0%
Disagree or strongly disagree	390	44.0%
Neither agree nor disagree, agree, or strongly agree	221	24.9%

From the manuscript: “This stands in stark contrast to beliefs about whether these activities should count in promotion decisions: 63% agreed or strongly agreed their university should value policy engagement in the tenure and promotion process, with only 16% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.”

Table A30:

Response option	N	Percent
Agree or strongly agree	558	63.1%
Disagree or strongly disagree	143	16.2%
Neither agree nor disagree, agree, or strongly agree	184	20.8%

From the manuscript: “An overwhelming majority (87.1%) of respondents agreed with the statement, “In the event that their policy recommendations come to be adopted by policymakers, scholars bear at least partial responsibility for the impact of those policies in the real world.””

Table A31:

Response option	N	Percent
Agree or strongly agree	762	87.1%
Disagree or strongly disagree	31	3.5%
Neither agree nor disagree, agree, or strongly agree	82	9.4%

From the manuscript: “Interestingly, very few IR scholars (4.7%) self-identified as having tempered or withheld their true beliefs or opinions in anticipation that the sponsor of those activities might disapprove.”

Table A32:

Response option	N	Percent
Agree or strongly agree	41	4.7%
Disagree or strongly disagree	734	84.3%
Neither agree nor disagree, agree, or strongly agree	96	11.0%

From the manuscript: “Overall, IR scholars were again divided, with 36% agreeing that they valued their own conclusions over scholarly consensus, 29.4% disagreeing, and 29.4% neither agreeing nor disagreeing. Seniority clearly mattered, however, with each rung up the academic ladder conferring greater confidence in one’s own findings.”

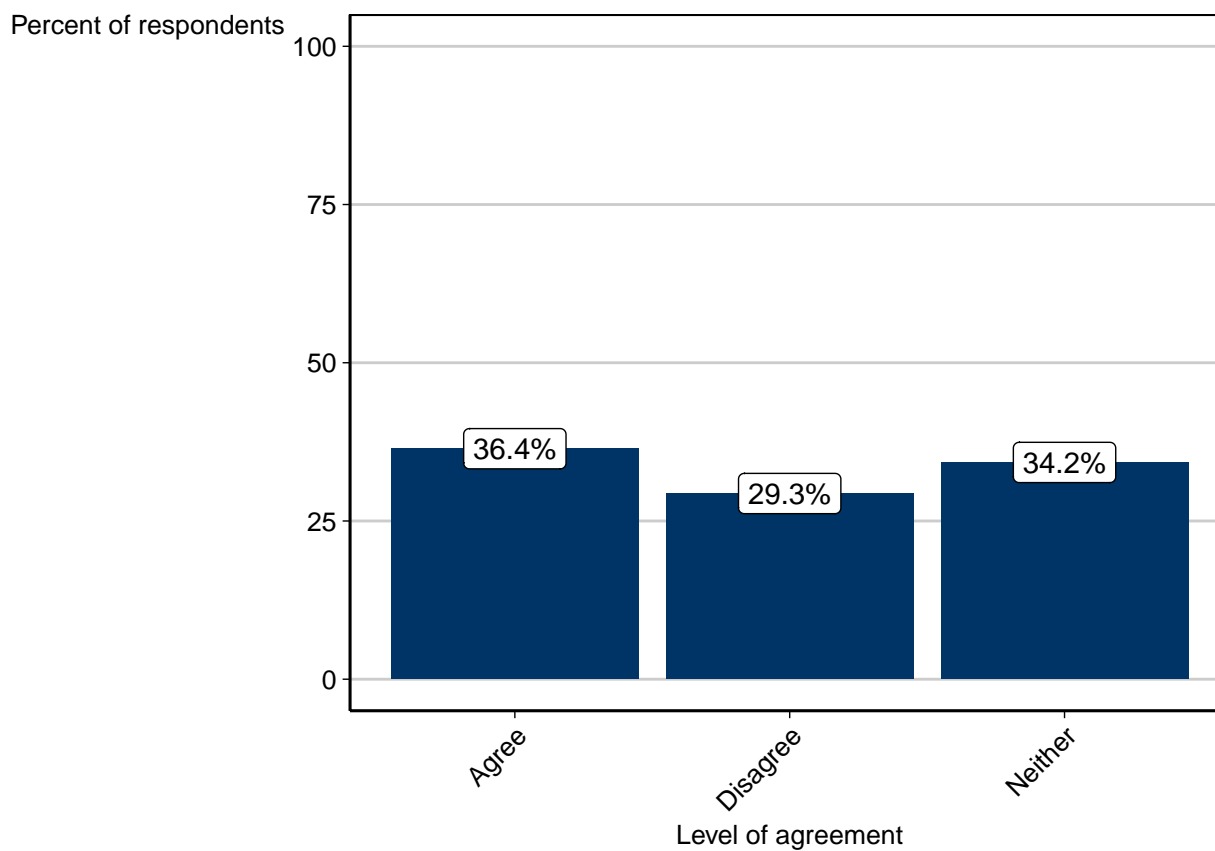
Table A33:

Response option	N	Percent
Agree or strongly agree	317	36.0%
Disagree or strongly disagree	259	29.4%
Neither agree nor disagree, agree, or strongly agree	304	34.5%

Manuscript Figure 1

Table A34: [Unweighted] I worry that policy-engaged scholars distort their true beliefs or opinions to appeal to policy audiences.

	Pct. (N)
Agree	36.4% (319)
Disagree	29.3% (257)
Neither	34.2% (300)



Manuscript Table 7

Table A35: [Unweighted] In policy discussions, I value the conclusions of my own research over the scholarly consensus on an issue by rank

Rank	Agree	Disagree	Neither
Chaired Professor	47.4% (45)	21.1% (20)	31.6% (30)
Full Professor	40.3% (106)	24% (63)	35.7% (94)
Associate Professor	32% (89)	37.4% (104)	30.6% (85)
Assistant Professor	28.6% (30)	33.3% (35)	38.1% (40)
Other	34.8% (32)	30.4% (28)	34.8% (32)
NA	31.9% (15)	19.1% (9)	48.9% (23)

Table A36: [Weighted] In policy discussions, I value the conclusions of my own research over the scholarly consensus on an issue by rank

Rank	Agree	Disagree	Neither
Chaired Professor	48.4% (35.2)	19.1% (13.9)	32.5% (23.7)
Full Professor	40.7% (84.6)	23.2% (48.2)	36.2% (75.3)
Associate Professor	31.6% (71.2)	38.7% (87.2)	29.8% (67.1)
Assistant Professor	29.3% (39)	33.5% (44.5)	37.2% (49.4)
Other	35.7% (62.8)	31.2% (54.9)	33.1% (58.3)
NA	29.8% (16.3)	19.8% (10.8)	50.3% (27.4)

References

- DeBell, Matthew, and Jon A Krosnick. 2009. "Computing Weights for American National Election Study Survey Data." *Nes012427*. Ann Arbor, MI, Palo Alto, CA: ANES Technical Report Series.
- Pasek, Josh, and Maintainer Josh Pasek. 2018. "Package 'Anesrake'." *The Comprehensive R Archive Network*.